



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

Guide to the

Carleton L. Lee papers

1931-1972

Sc MG 451

Summary

Creator: Lee, Carleton Lafayette, 1913-

Title: Carleton L. Lee papers

Date: 1931-1972

Size: 3.42 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Gift of Maggie L. Lee, January 1991.

Abstract: Carleton L. Lee was an African-American educator and social worker. The Carleton L. Lee papers contain material reflecting his various positions, with files discussing aspects of his professional employment and activities. A contributor to professional, church and literary journals, his writings are also represented in the collection.

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Separated Materials:

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Creator History

Carleton L. Lee received his bachelor's degree from Talledega College (1933) and his master's degree (1937) and doctorate (1951) from the University of Chicago. An African-American educator and social worker, he worked for the National Council of the YMCA in Atlanta as the associate secretary of the Southern Area; Tuskegee Institute as chaplain (1947-1953); and the World Council of Churches in

Germany where he was a fraternal worker (1953-1955). Lee began his academic career teaching at historically black colleges. He was chair and professor of philosophy and religion at Tougaloo Southern Christian College (1955-1957); he also taught at Central State College in Wilberforce, Ohio, where his last appointment there was as professor of philosophy and religion from 1957-1967. From 1967-1969, he was professor of social science (sociology) at Cheyney State College in Pennsylvania. Lee's final position was at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where he was a professor and the first director of Black Americana Studies from 1969 until his death in 1972.

Scope and Content Note

The Carleton L. Lee papers contain material reflecting his various positions, with files discussing aspects of his professional employment and activities. A contributor to professional, church and literary journals, his writings are also represented in the collection. Additionally, there are materials related to Lee's participation in several educational societies and organizations.

Arrangement: Organized into seven series: I. Personal papers; II. Education; III. Correspondence; IV. Professional employment; V. Professional activities; VI. Writings; and VII. Subject Files.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American college teachers
African American educators
Authors, Black

Names

Lee, Carleton Lafayette, 1913-
National Association of College and University Chaplains
National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States of America
World Council of Churches

Container List

Personal papers 1932-1934

The personal papers include diaries that he maintained while a student at Talladega College and the University of Chicago from 1932 to 1934 which mention some of his activities during this time.

- b. 1 f. 1-3 undated
- b. 1 f. 4 Diaries 1932-1934
- b. 1 f. 5 Address books
- b. 1 f. 6 Family

Education 1935-1962

The Education series includes files related to each of the colleges he attended. In addition to his notes for a class he took about church history, Talladega College is also represented by alumni association material, as Lee was the president of the Midwestern Region of the alumni club. There are class notes and papers he wrote while pursuing his Bachelors of Divinity at Chicago Theological Seminary, and excerpts from his dissertation for the University of Chicago. A file contains convention material for the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

- b. 1 f. 7-9 Talladega College
- b. 1 f. 10-11 Chicago Theological Seminary
- b. 1 f. 12-14 University of Chicago
Includes dissertation excerpts.
- b. 1 f. 15 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity 1956-1962
- b. 1 f. 16 Student expense books 1935-1945
- b. 1 f. 17 Unidentified school
- b. 1 f. 18-23 Correspondence 1944-1972

Lee's correspondence files consist of letters to editors of several newspapers, letters regarding addresses he delivered, and job inquiries at universities, among other professional matters with colleagues, 1944-1972.

Professional employment

This series consists of material related to Lee's various professional positions. For his employment with the Southern Area of the National Council of the YMCA, there are reports on interracial conferences, correspondence with officials of the YMCA, programs, and other printed material. Files pertaining to his work for the World Council of Churches in West Germany includes correspondence with his colleagues and family regarding his experiences, reports he and others wrote, associated printed matter, and other related material.

Lee held three positions at Central State College in Wilberforce, but the correspondence does not discuss his various positions or specific activities. There are minutes of the Administrative Committee on Graduate Studies, a few reports and prayers which Lee wrote, and religious and commencement programs. His leadership of Black Americana Studies at Western Michigan University is represented by minutes of the Advisory Committee of this program; Lee's description of the program and course offerings; and relevant brochures and other printed material. Teaching notes and student evaluations for a class he taught are also in this section.

- b. 1 f. 24 Chesapeake Summer School
- b. 1 f. 25 Dorchester Academy
- b. 1 f. 26 Chicago Relief Administration
- b. 1 f. 27-30 YMCA
- b. 1 f. 31 Turner Theological Seminary
- b. 1 f. 32-33 Tuskegee Institute
- b. 1 f. 34-38 World Council of Churches, Gossner Mission, Mainz—Kastel, West Germany
- b. 2 f. 1-2

Professional employment (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 3 **Tougaloo College**
- b. 2 f. 4-11 **Central State College**
Includes "Religion in Life Week" and other programs.
- b. 2 f. 12-14 **Lisle Fellowship**
- b. 2 f. 15-16 **Cheyney State College**
- b. 2 f. 17-22 **Western Michigan University**

Professional activities 1954-1972

The Professional activities series includes numerous programs for events where Lee spoke; most are orders of services for churches where Lee was the guest pastor. Files also discuss the National Association of College and University Chaplains, for which he served as president from 1961-1962.

- b. 2 f. 23-26 **Presentation programs**
Includes Virginia Jackson Thomas.
- b. 2 f. 27-28 **Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists conferences 1970-1972**
- b. 2 f. 29 **Howard University School of Religion**
- b. 3 f. 1 **National Committee of Black Churchmen 1970**
- b. 3 f. 2 **Conferences attended 1954-1972**
- b. 3 f. 3 **Federal Council of Churches**
- b. 3 f. 4-5 **National Association of College and University Chaplains**

Writings 1936-1938

Lee's writings include reprints of a few of his publications; an extensive diary covering the years 1936 to 1938 with notes on his religious activities; and sermons, addresses, eulogies, numerous poems, and prayers.

- b. 3 f. 6 **Publications and mentions in news clippings**
- b. 3 f. 7 **Diary 1936-1938**
- b. 3 f. 8-9 **Addresses and sermons**
- b. 3 f. 10-20 **undated**
- b. 3 f. 21-22 **Notes**

Subject files 1970-1971

The last series, Subject files, consists of printed material related to black studies departments forming on college campuses in the early 1970s.

- b. 3 f. 24 **Black Power**
- b. 3 f. 25-27 **Black Religious Studies programs 1970-1971**
Includes Colgate Rochester-Bexley Hall.
- b. 3 f. 28-30 **Black Studies Departments and Black Studies Resources**
b. 4 f. 1-6 Includes other authors.