



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

Guide to the

Walter White papers

1921-1938

Sc MG 479

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: White, Walter, 1893-1955

Title: Walter White papers

Date: 1921-1938

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift, 409 Edgecombe Avenue Tenant Association, 1988

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: The Walter White Papers consists of writings, letters, contracts, printed matter, reports and financial records. The bulk of the collection consists of White's writings, including two published articles "Negro Segregation Comes North" (1925) and the "Negro and the Supreme Court" (1931), and two manuscripts entitled "Crossing the Color Line" and "Over the Color Line," which focus on "passing." There is also an unpublished manuscript, research material, notes and character sketches for "Blackjack" a work of fiction that deals with African Americans in the sport of boxing; and a description of the tableaux scenes for "Batoula", possibly based on the novel by René Maran, which was cast in Dahomey. There are also poems written by White's friend, Grace Mott Johnson (1928-1929).

Preferred citation: [Item], Walter White papers, Sc MG 479, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

This collection was separated from the 409 Edgecombe collection (Sc MG 804).

Creator History

Walter White was one of the most important civil rights leaders of the twentieth century. From 1931 to 1955 he served as the executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). White established the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP, and came to the attention of

James Weldon Johnson, the executive secretary of the national NAACP, who hired him in 1918 as the assistant executive secretary.

In his thirty-seven year career with the NAACP, White played a leadership role in the national effort to achieve political, economic and social rights for African Americans. He led the fight for anti-lynching legislation, as well as several legal campaigns to end white primaries, poll taxes and segregated housing and education. He was the author of nine books, including two novels, *Fire in the Flint* (1924) and *Flight* (1926), and *Rope and Faggot: A Biography of Judge Lynch* (1929), which was an study of lynching, and an autobiography *A Man called White*, which was published in 1948.

Scope and Content Note

The Walter White Papers consists of writings, letters, contracts, printed matter, reports and financial records. The bulk of the collection consists of White's writings, including two published articles "Negro Segregation Comes North" (1925) and the "Negro and the Supreme Court" (1931), and two manuscripts entitled "Crossing the Color Line" and "Over the Color Line," which focus on "passing." There is also an unpublished manuscript, research material, notes and character sketches for "Blackjack" a work of fiction that deals with African Americans in the sport of boxing; and a description of the tableaux scenes for "Batoula", possibly based on the novel by René Maran, which was cast in Dahomey. There are also poems written by White's friend, Grace Mott Johnson (1928-1929).

Printed material consists of items produced by the NAACP and abstracts of reports prepared by the research committee of the National Interracial Conference concerning health, education, industry and agriculture, among other topics.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American civic leaders
African American intellectuals
African American novelists
African Americans -- Social conditions
Black author
Boxing -- United States -- Fiction

Names

Mott, Grace Johnson
White, Walter, 1893-1955
National Interracial Conference

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Letters 1924-1937
- b. 1 f. 2 Contracts 1923-1925
- b. 1 f. 3 Insurance Policy 1931
- b. 1 f. 4 White Family Genealogy
- b. 1 f. 5 Printed Material 1928-1932
- b. 1 f. 6 Financial Records 1929
- b. 1 f. 7 American Fund For Public Service Committee on Negro Work
- b. 1 f. 8 National Association For the Advancement of Colored People 1921-1931
- b. 1 f. 9-10 National Interracial Conference 1928 December 16-19
- b. 1 f. 11 Newsclippings 1924-1930
- Writings
- b. 1 f. 12 Published 1925-1931
- b. 1 f. 13 "Crossing the Color Line"
- b. 1 f. 14 "Blackjack" Manuscript
- b. 1 f. 15 "Blackjack" Research Material 1923-1938
- b. 1 f. 16 Notes/Character Sketches
- b. 1 f. 17 "Over the Color Line"
- b. 1 f. 18 Scientific Note
- b. 1 f. 19 Miscellaneous Fragments and Notes
- b. 1 f. 20 "Batouala" Play
- b. 1 f. 21 Grace Mott Johnson 1928-1929