



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

Guide to the

Radio Scripts collection

1937-1966

Sc MG 60

Collection processed by staff of the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division.

Summary

Title: Radio Scripts collection

Date: 1937-1966

Size: 2.29 linear feet (6 boxes)

Abstract: The Radio Scripts collection is an artificial grouping of scripts from radio programs that were developed to show the contributions of African Americans to the social, economic, political and historical development of the United States. Many of the scripts were created for public service programs during the 1940s to foster national unity and better race relations. The Radio Scripts collection consists of transcripts of radio programs, both serials and single broadcasts.

Preferred citation: [Item], Radio Scripts collection, Sc MG 60, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Collection processed by staff of the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division.

Creator History

The Radio Scripts collection is an artificial grouping of scripts from radio programs that were developed to show the contributions of African Americans to the social, economic, political and historical development of the United States. Many of the scripts were created for public service programs during the 1940s to foster national unity and better race relations.

Scope and Content Note

The Radio Scripts Collection consists of transcripts of radio programs, both serials and single broadcasts. Among the serials that are included are "Freedom's People" sponsored by the Federal Security Agency of the U. S. Office of Education (1941-1942); "Give me Liberty" sponsored by the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom (1939); "Native Sons" written by Kirk

Lord and Frank Griffin; "National Urban League" sponsored by the organization of the same name during its annual Vocational Opportunity Campaign (1941-1951); "Unity at Home; Victory Abroad" consisting of speeches and dramatizations of the lives of African Americans and whites (1943); "New World a-Comin'". (1944-1946); and "Within Our Gates" presented by the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission to deal with the problem of intolerance and bigotry and to provide all citizens equal opportunity and equal rights (1945-1948).

The largest group of scripts in the Radio Scripts Collection is from the radio series "New World a-Comin'". This program was based on the prize-winning bestseller of the same name by Roi Ottley. The radio series was broadcast weekly from 1944-1966 at station WMCA in New York, with the cooperation of the City-wide Citizens' Committee on Harlem. Many programs were directed by Mitchell Grayson, narrated by Canada Lee, and featured a variety of guest stars. The series consists of dramatizations of individuals' lives, and events, which impacted the lives of all minorities in the United States. The major focus was black related themes - national and New York City history, labor and migrant workers, the participation of African Americans during World War II, health issues, education, Jim Crow and aspects of racial discrimination are among the issues discussed. Guest authors included Owen Dodson, "Roll Call" and "They Knew Lincoln", and Howard Fast, author of the script "Freedom's Road".

There are also several single scripts including, "Speech of Paul Robeson", "Hampton Institute Forum of the Air, 1944", "Lincoln, Douglas and the Honor Roll In the Race Relations, " and "Wings over Jordan.

Container List

New World A Comin'

- b. 1 f. 1 March-April 1944
- b. 1 f. 2 May-October 15, 1944
- b. 1 f. 3 October 22-December 1944
- b. 1 f. 4 January-February 1945
- b. 1 f. 5 March-May 1945
- b. 2 f. 1 October 8-December 1945
- b. 2 f. 2 1946 January-February 12
- b. 2 f. 3 February-March 1946
- b. 2 f. 4 April-May 1946

Within Our Gates

- b. 2 f. 5 January-March 1945
- b. 3 f. 1 April-June 10, 1945
- b. 3 f. 2 June 17, 1945-January 19, 1947
- b. 3 f. 3 March 1947-March 1948
- b. 4 f. 1 Give Me Liberty 1939
- b. 4 f. 2 Those Who Have Made Good 1941
- b. 4 f. 3 Freedom's People 1941-1942
- b. 4 f. 4 National Urban League 1941-1951
- b. 4 f. 5 Unity At Home, Victory Abroad 1943
- b. 4 f. 6 Wings Over Jordan 1943-1944
- b. 4 f. 7 Hampton Institute Forum of the Air 1944
- b. 4 f. 8 These Are Americans 1944
- b. 4 f. 9 United Negro College Fund 1944
- b. 5 f. 1 Minority Opinion 1945
- b. 5 f. 2 Harlem - USA January 1948-March 1949
- b. 5 f. 3 Women's World 1949-1950
- b. 5 f. 4 Segregation and the Law 1950
- b. 5 f. 5 Ideological Special 1951
- b. 5 f. 6 WLIB 1953
- b. 5 f. 7 The Eternal Light 1959-1964
- b. 5 f. 8 Africanist Attitudes 1963
- b. 5 f. 9 Voice of America 1966
- b. 5 f. 10 Great Americans undated
- b. 5 f. 11 Native Sons, A-E
- b. 5 f. 12 Native Sons, G-W

Miscellaneous Broadcasts 1937-1942

- b. 6 f. 1 America's Negro Soldiers
- b. 6 f. 1 CBS National Urban League Show

Miscellaneous Broadcasts (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 1 The Contributions of the Negro to American Culture
- b. 6 f. 1 Giants of Freedom
- b. 6 f. 1 Grand Central Station
- b. 6 f. 1 Haiti
- b. 6 f. 1 Island of Romantic History
- b. 6 f. 1 Lincoln, Douglas and the Honor Roll in the Race Relations
- My People: The Story of the Negro
- b. 6 f. 1 April 5, 1942
- b. 6 f. 1 October 24, 1942
- b. 6 f. 1 National Committee, Communist Party of the United States - Speech of James W. Ford on Washington's Birthday
- b. 6 f. 1 Negro Labor in the Present Crisis
- b. 6 f. 1 Negro Labor Spurns Hitlerism and Stalinism
- b. 6 f. 1 The Negro March On Washington
- Of Men and Books
- b. 6 f. 1 Script 1
- b. 6 f. 1 Script 34
- b. 6 f. 1 Program for Negro History Week
- b. 6 f. 1 The River
- b. 6 f. 1 Salute to Negro Troops
- b. 6 f. 1 Silver Anniversary of the National Negro Health Week

Miscellaneous Broadcasts 1943-1944

- b. 6 f. 2 CBS Open Letter On Race Hatred
- b. 6 f. 2 Labor For Victory
- b. 6 f. 2 Man Behind the Gun
- b. 6 f. 2 News and Views by John B. Hugues
- b. 6 f. 2 The Negro Press- Special Edition
- b. 6 f. 2 The Roll of the Student in the Dramatic Fight of Freedom for the Common Man - Station CURC (Columbia University)
- b. 6 f. 2 Spirit of '43
- b. 6 f. 2 Station WEVD - Segregation in Peace and War
- b. 6 f. 2 Talk by Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick
- b. 6 f. 2 Your War Job - The War Manpower Commission and The United Employment Service starring Lionel Hampton and his Orchestra Music

Miscellaneous Broadcasts 1944

- b. 6 f. 3 Between Americans
- b. 6 f. 3 The Blue Playhouse - He Was a Working Man
- b. 6 f. 3 Destination - Tomorrow
- b. 6 f. 3 Forum: Is Swing a Cause of Juvenile Delinquency
- b. 6 f. 3 Frederick Douglas and the Honor Roll in Race Relations
- b. 6 f. 3 Here's to Youth
- b. 6 f. 3 Lands of the Free

Miscellaneous Broadcasts (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 3 Negro Newspaper Week
- b. 6 f. 3 New Yorkers All — Heroes All
- b. 6 f. 3 Speech of Paul Robeson
- b. 6 f. 3 Storyland Theatre - The Cat and the Queen
- b. 6 f. 3 The Southernaires
- b. 6 f. 3 They Call Me Joe
- b. 6 f. 3 The Washington Front
- b. 6 f. 3 The Workers and Merchants of Harlem

Miscellaneous Broadcasts 1946-1951, undated

- b. 6 f. 4 America Answers
- b. 6 f. 4 Americans All
- b. 6 f. 4 Bed Time Story; For Adults Only
- b. 6 f. 4 Democracy at Work
- b. 6 f. 4 Democratic National Committee
- b. 6 f. 4 God is Two People
- b. 6 f. 4 House of Mystery
- b. 6 f. 4 Interview with Mme. Bethune
- b. 6 f. 4 Liberian Centennial
- b. 6 f. 4 The Negro Looks at the Municipal Campaign
- b. 6 f. 4 The Negro Salutes Democracy and National Defense
- b. 6 f. 4 People Make Music: African Music in South America
- b. 6 f. 4 People Make Music: African Rhythms in Haiti and Trinidad
- b. 6 f. 4 The Shoe Pinches Mr. Samuels
- b. 6 f. 4 Talk On Tolerance Through Music by Canada Lee
- b. 6 f. 4 Time for a Progress Report
- b. 6 f. 4 Win the War Radio CIO, Freedom Grows
- b. 6 f. 4 WQXR Broadcast - Negro Chorus of Navy Singers From the Naval Training School Glee Club at Hampton Institute