



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

Guide to the

**Schomburg Committee of the Trustees of New York Public Library  
collection**

1925-1940  
Sc MG 192

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

## Summary

**Creator:** New York Public Library

**Title:** Schomburg Committee of the Trustees of New York Public Library collection

**Date:** 1925-1940

**Size:** 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Gift, L. Hollingsworth Wood, ca. 1970

**Abstract:** The New York Public Library purchased Arthur A. Schomburg's collection of books, pamphlets, prints and photographs in 1926 with funds from the Carnegie Corporation and housed at the 135th Street Branch Library of The New York Public Library. L. Hollingsworth Wood was appointed in 1925 by the Board of Trustees of The New York Public Library to purchase and provide guidelines for the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature. Members of the Advisory Committee of the Arthur A. Schomburg Collection, in addition to Wood, included Arthur A. Schomburg, Henry G. Leach, New York Public Library, Mrs. Charles S. Brown, Jr., Library trustee; and Eugene Kinckle Jones, Secretary of the National Urban League. Charles S. Johnson, editor of Opportunity magazine, managed the negotiations between the officials of the National Urban League and Mr. Schomburg. The 135th Street Branch Library, under the guidance of Ernestine Rose, the Head Librarian, already had a nucleus of a reference library, the Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints that had officially opened on May 8, 1925. The Schomburg Collection became a major part of this reference library. Schomburg Committee of the Trustees of New York Public Library Files consists of correspondence and minutes of meetings of the Schomburg Committee of the Trustees of The New York Public Library. There are also some news clippings relating to the purchase of the Arthur A. Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature comprised of books, pamphlets, prints, manuscripts and other material. The post 1926 papers include correspondence pertaining to efforts to keep Arthur Schomburg on the library payroll, acquisition of additional material, and Arthur Schomburg's research plans. The correspondence is largely between L. Hollingsworth Wood, president of the National Urban League and member of the Advisory Committee of the Arthur A. Schomburg Collection, and Franklin Hopper, Chief of Circulation of the NYPL; Charles S. Johnson, Secretary of the Advisory Committee; Dr. F. P. Keppel of the Carnegie Corporation; Henry G. Leach, Chairman of the Advisory Committee; Ernestine Rose, Librarian of the 135th Street Branch Library; and Arthur A. Schomburg.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: [http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request\\_access](http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access)

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Schomburg Committee of the Trustees of New York Public Library collection, Sc MG 192, 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

The New York Public Library purchased Arthur A. Schomburg's collection of books, pamphlets, prints and photographs in 1926 with funds from the Carnegie Corporation and housed at the 135th Street Branch Library of The New York Public Library. L. Hollingsworth Wood was appointed in 1925 by the Board of Trustees of The New York Public Library to purchase and provide guidelines for the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature. Members of the Advisory Committee of the Arthur A. Schomburg Collection, in addition to Wood, included Arthur A. Schomburg, Henry G. Leach, New York Public Library, Mrs. Charles S. Brown, Jr., Library trustee; and Eugene Kinckle Jones, Secretary of the National Urban League. Charles S. Johnson, editor of *Opportunity* magazine, managed the negotiations between the officials of the National Urban League and Mr. Schomburg. The 135th Street Branch Library, under the guidance of Ernestine Rose, the Head Librarian, already had a nucleus of a reference library, the Division of Negro Literature, History and Prints that had officially opened on May 8, 1925. The Schomburg Collection became a major part of this reference library.

## Scope and Content Note

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## Key Terms

### Names

Hopper, F. F. (Franklin Ferguson), 1878-1950  
Johnson, Charles Spurgeon, 1893-1956  
Jones, Eugene Kinckle, 1885-1954  
Keppel, Frederick P. (Frederick Paul), 1875-1943  
Leach, Henry Goddard, 1880-1970

Rose, Ernestine, 1880-1961  
Schomburg, Arthur Alfonso, 1874-1938  
Wood, L. Hollingsworth (Levi Hollingsworth), 1874-1956  
Carnegie Corporation of New York  
New York Public Library  
New York Public Library. 135th Street Branch  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture