



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

Guide to the

Robert H. Beecher papers

1941-1987

Sc MG 272

Summary

Creator: Beecher, Robert Houston, 1914-1987

Title: Robert H. Beecher papers

Date: 1941-1987

Size: 2.2 linear feet (6 record cartons)

Source: Gift, Clarence Beecher, 1988

Abstract: Panamanian-born educator. Robert Beecher's elementary education took place in Jamaica, his parents' country of origin before they migrated to Panama at the time of the construction of the Canal. He graduated from the University of Panama in 1948 and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1951. He served as a college and high school teacher in the Canal Zone until 1956, when he migrated to the United States. Hired by the New York City Board of Education in 1958, he worked first as a high school teacher, then as an administrator and community liaison in the Bronx. He obtained his Ph.D. at New York University in 1968 and became, the following year, an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Education Foundations at Hunter College. At the time of his death, he was working jointly with his brother, Dr. Clarence Beecher, on a bibliography on the slave trade in Panama. Personal papers, correspondence, writings and research materials relating to education in the Panama Canal Zone and the education of minorities in the United States. Included are papers documenting Beecher's career as a New York City school teacher and community coordinator for school district 12 in the Bronx as well as his interest in issues relating to Panama and Panamanians of West Indian heritage. Also included are transcripts of interviews with black political figures from Central Brooklyn including Judge Thomas R. Jones, Andrew and Jocelyn Cooper, Patrick Carter, Assemblyman Thomas Fortune, Judge Joseph B. Williams, Jim Greenidge, Kasisi Jitu Weusi and Bertram Baker and the thesis, "Perspectives on Power: A Black Community Looks at Itself" by Carlos E. Russell which incorporates these interviews. However, the thesis is missing chapters five and six. Other individuals represented in the collection are Clarence Beecher and two Panamanian labor leaders, Ed Gaskin and George Westerman.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Robert H. Beecher papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The

Creator History

Panamanian-born educator. Robert Beecher's elementary education took place in Jamaica, his parents' country of origin before they migrated to Panama at the time of the construction of the Canal. He graduated from the University of Panama in 1948 and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1951. He served as a college and high school teacher in the Canal Zone until 1956, when he migrated to the United States. Hired by the New York City Board of Education in 1958, he worked first as a high school teacher, then as an administrator and community liaison in the Bronx. He obtained his Ph.D. at New York University in 1968 and became, the following year, an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Education Foundations at Hunter College. At the time of his death, he was working jointly with his brother, Dr. Clarence Beecher, on a bibliography on the slave trade in Panama.

Scope and Content Note

Personal papers, correspondence, writings and research materials relating to education in the Panama Canal Zone and the education of minorities in the United States. Included are papers documenting Beecher's career as a New York City school teacher and community coordinator for school district 12 in the Bronx as well as his interest in issues relating to Panama and Panamanians of West Indian heritage. Also included are transcripts of interviews with black political figures from Central Brooklyn including Judge Thomas R. Jones, Andrew and Jocelyn Cooper, Patrick Carter, Assemblyman Thomas Fortune, Judge Joseph B. Williams, Jim Greenidge, Kasisi Jitu Weusi and Bertram Baker and the thesis, "Perspectives on Power: A Black Community Looks at Itself" by Carlos E. Russell which incorporates these interviews. However, the thesis is missing chapters five and six. Other individuals represented in the collection are Clarence Beecher and two Panamanian labor leaders, Ed Gaskin and George Westerman.

Arrangement: I. Personal; II. Professional; III. Research and Writing Series; IV. Panama and Canal Zone; V. Other Authors

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Education
Black author
Blacks -- Panama -- Canal Zone
Community and school -- United States
Education, Elementary -- Panama
Education, Urban -- United States
Minorities -- Education (Elementary) -- United States
Multicultural education -- United States
Slave trade -- Panama

Geographic Names

Panama -- Race relations

Names

Beecher, Robert Houston, 1914-1987

Baker, Bertram L. (Bertram Llewellyn), 1898-1985
Beecher, Clarence
Carter, Patrick
Cooper, Andrew W., 1927-2002
Fortune, Thomas R.
Gaskin, Ed
Greenidge, Jim
Jones, Thomas R., 1913-2006
Russell, Carlos
Westerman, George W.
Weusi, Kasisi Jitu
Williams, Joseph B., 1922-1992