



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

Guide to the

C.L.R. James letters

1939-1981 [bulk 1939-1946]

Sc MG 132

Summary

Creator: James, C. L. R. (Cyril Lionel Robert), 1901-1989

Title: C.L.R. James letters

Date: 1939-1981 [bulk 1939-1946]

Size: 1.4 linear feet; 3 1/2 a.b

Abstract: West Indian scholar, political activist and writer. Died in 1989. Collection consists mainly of letters written by James to his former wife and political associate, Constance Webb. James' letters discuss a wide variety of subjects including love, politics, especially Marxism, art, history, sports, literature, and popular culture. Also included are miscellaneous letters and organizational materials documenting James' political activities in the United States, 1938-1953; and letters written to Webb regarding her writings on Richard Wright from Arna Bontemps, Lawrence Reddick, and Ellen Wright. Numerous letters also discuss the Johnson-Forest Tendency, a faction led by C.L.R. James under the pseudonym of J.R. Johnson and Raya Dunayevskaya (also known as Freddie Forest) within the Socialist Workers Party, which later evolved into the group, Facing Reality.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: C.L.R. James letters, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

West Indian scholar, political activist and writer. Died in 1989.

Scope and Content Note

Collection consists mainly of letters written by James to his former wife and political associate, Constance Webb. James' letters discuss a wide variety of subjects including love, politics, especially Marxism, art, history, sports, literature, and popular culture. Also included are miscellaneous letters and organizational materials documenting James' political activities in the United States, 1938-1953; and letters written to Webb regarding her writings on Richard Wright from Arna Bontemps, Lawrence

Reddick, and Ellen Wright. Numerous letters also discuss the Johnson-Forest Tendency, a faction led by C.L.R. James under the pseudonym of J.R. Johnson and Raya Dunayevskaya (also known as Freddie Forest) within the Socialist Workers Party, which later evolved into the group, Facing Reality.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors
Black author
Blacks -- Political activity
Cricket
Socialism

Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government -- 1933-1945
United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-1953
United States -- Social life and customs

Names

James, C. L. R. (Cyril Lionel Robert), 1901-1989
Boggs, Grace Lee
Bontemps, Arna, 1902-1973
Dunayevskaya, Raya
Reddick, Lawrence Dunbar, 1910-1995
Webb, Constance
Wright, Ellen, 1912?-2004
Wright, Richard, 1908-1960
Johnson-Forest Tendency