Guide to the
Edward S. Lewis papers
1918-1986 [bulk 1948-1986]
Sc MG 116

Summary

Creator: Lewis, Edward S. (Edward Shakespear)
Title: Edward S. Lewis papers
Date: 1918-1986 [bulk 1948-1986]
Size: 6.5 linear feet
Source: Gift, Edward S. Lewis, 10/-/1985

Abstract: The Edward S. Lewis Papers, 1918-1986 (bulk 1948-1986), consist primarily of printed material. In the General series there are: correspondence, with letters from Senator Walter Mondale and Robert C. Weaver; memoranda; minutes; travel itineraries and printed matter. Lewis' trips to East and West Africa, leading delegations of educators and peace advocates, are well documented in the collection. Also documented, are the anti-apartheid activities of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency, Lewis' tenure on the New York State and the Presidential Consumer advisory councils; and the Manhattanville tenants and condominium owners' advocacy organization for which he was a board member.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:
Access to New York Urban League material is restricted, excluding printed matter.

Preferred citation: Edward S. Lewis papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History
Edward Shakespear Lewis was an Urban League executive from 1927-1964. He served as executive-secretary of the Kansas City (Mo.) Urban League from 1927-1931, executive director of the Baltimore Urban League, from 1931-1942, and executive director for the Urban League of New York City, from 1942-1964.
During his tenure, the Baltimore Urban League campaigned against Jim Crow policies, for employment of Blacks in the war/military industry, and for better housing. Under his leadership, the borough chapters of the Urban League in New York City were centralized into the Urban League of Greater New York, and took on the issues confronting the urban poor. After earning a Ph.D. from New York University in 1964, Lewis resigned from the Urban League and became a professor in the co-operative education department at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC.) At the time of his retirement from BMCC, Lewis had served as Dean of Co-operative Education, the first black president of the National Co-operative Education Association and Assistant to the President of the College on community affairs. Lewis also served on the boards of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency (FPWA), the Manhattanville Community Center and several other civic organizations.

Scope and Content Note
The Edward S. Lewis Papers, 1918-1986 (bulk 1948-1986), consist primarily of printed material. In the General series there are: correspondence, with letters from Senator Walter Mondale and Robert C. Weaver; memoranda; minutes; travel itineraries and printed matter. Lewis' trips to East and West Africa, leading delegations of educators and peace advocates, are well documented in the collection. Also documented, are the anti-apartheid activities of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency, Lewis' tenure on the New York State and the Presidential Consumer advisory councils; and the Manhattanville tenants and condominium owners' advocacy organization for which he was a board member. The Urban League series documents Lewis' years as a social work executive for the League from 1927-1964; sub-series are: Baltimore, New York and National. Included are clippings on the 'clean-up' Harlem campaign, co-sponsored by the Urban League of Greater New York, which addressed the quality of available housing and encouraged relocation to public housing projects. Lewis' files on the Borough of Manhattan Community College includes files on the development and expansion of the cooperative education program at the college under Lewis' leadership; the relationship between the college and the community in which it is located; the Amalgamated Workers Trade Union; the Louis and Irene Simon Scholarship, along with clippings and memos about the college and the CUNY system. The Cooperative Education series gives an overview of cooperative education in the United States over a twenty year (1964-1984) period. Included are: cooperative education training manuals; correspondence relating to Lewis' cooperative education consulting; professional articles; programs developed jointly between labor and college cooperative education programs; miscellaneous items regarding the National Cooperative Education Association and Lewis' presidency of the Association.

Arrangement: Four series: I. General; II. Urban League; III. Borough of Manhattan Community College; IV. Co-operative Education Alphabetical within series and sub-series

Key Terms
Geographic Names
Africa -- Description and travel
Harlem (New York, N.Y.) -- Economic conditions
New York (N.Y.) -- Economic conditions

Subjects
African American college administrators -- United States
African American youth -- New York (State) -- New York
African Americans -- Education
African Americans -- Employment
African Americans -- Housing -- New York (State) -- New York
African Americans -- Maryland -- Baltimore
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York
African Americans -- Societies, etc
Civic leaders -- Maryland -- Baltimore
Civic leaders -- New York (State) -- New York
Civic leaders -- United States
Education, Cooperative -- New York (State) -- New York

Occupations
African American college teachers

Names
Lewis, Edward S. (Edward Shakespear)
Baltimore Urban League (Md.)
Borough of Manhattan Community College
HARYOU (Organization)
Urban League of Greater New York