



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

Guide to the

Victor Daly papers

1941-1986

Sc MG 428

Summary

Creator: Daly, Victor

Title: Victor Daly papers

Date: 1941-1986

Size: 4 linear feet

Source: Gift, Lenore B. Daly, June 1991

Abstract: The Victor Daly Papers reflect Daly's efforts with the United States Employment Service to integrate previously segregated occupations as well as his activities as an officer of the American Bridge Association. In addition to biographical information about Daly including published articles, the collection contains his novel *Not Only War*, published in 1932 as well as short stories. There are also journal and newspaper articles written by him regarding employment opportunities for minorities. Daly's many speeches about youth employment presented at high schools, universities, radio stations and organizations in the Washington, D. C. and Baltimore area can be found in the collection, 1941-1960's.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Victor Daly papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Related Materials:

Also located at; Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

Victor R. Daly was a founding member of the American Bridge Association (ABA), a black membership organization, and an official with the United States Employment Service (USES), Department of Labor, for the District of Columbia. In the 1920's and early 1930's he wrote the novel "*Not Only War*" and several short stories, developing the theme of the African-American war experience. Daly joined the

Department of Labor in 1934 in Washington, D. C. and used his position with the USES to help create job opportunities for blacks in a variety of previously segregated occupations. He retired from government employ in 1967.

In 1932 Daly was one of thirty-six founding members of the American Bridge Association, organized by blacks because of race prejudice and exclusion from membership and competition in the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). Despite attempts by Daly and others to break the color line, the refusal of membership in the ACBL continued for decades. By creating their own organization, African Americans were able to compete in national tournaments.

Daly served as Eastern vice president of the ABA from 1941 until 1943, and was its national president from 1949 until 1964. During this period he devoted most of his energy to improving relations with and breaking down racial barriers within the ACBL. One of Daly's accomplishments was the acceptance of the ABA by the American Hotel Association to stage its two annual national tournaments. New York's Waldorf-Astoria was the first of the major hotels to accept black guests. Following this lead, other professional black organizations that hold annual conventions in various parts of the country were able to find accommodation in some of the country's top hotels. Daly died in 1986.

Scope and Content Note

The Victor Daly Papers reflect Daly's efforts with the United States Employment Service to integrate previously segregated occupations as well as his activities as an officer of the American Bridge Association. In addition to biographical information about Daly including published articles, the collection contains his novel *Not Only War*, published in 1932 as well as short stories. There are also journal and newspaper articles written by him regarding employment opportunities for minorities. Daly's many speeches about youth employment presented at high schools, universities, radio stations and organizations in the Washington, D. C. and Baltimore area can be found in the collection, 1941-1960's. The American Bridge Association is represented by minutes, a general correspondence file, and information about the ABA's national tournaments and its various regional sections. There are players' handbooks, as well as minutes and reports of executive and national board meetings and treasurer's reports, 1961-1986. The General Correspondence File, 1944-1980, contains information about official ABA business such as board and committee appointments, correspondence with other presidents and officers, and integration with the American Contract Bridge League and the ACBL's Washington Bridge Unit. Daly's correspondence with Albert Morehead, a friend and the bridge editor of *The New York Times*, is included. Also in the collection are Daly's editorials and messages that appeared in the press and other media as well as files discussing arrangements for accommodations in major hotels during national tournaments, a responsibility Daly assumed from 1945 to 1980. There are files for the Time and Place Committee, which planned the upcoming national tournaments. Other files contain information about the national tournaments and ABA bridge clubs located in various geographic regions throughout the nation. The collection concludes with a number of news clippings about the ABA and Victor Daly.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American authors -- Washington (D.C.)

African Americans -- Employment

African Americans -- Recreation
African Americans -- Social life and customs
African Americans -- Societies, etc
Black author
Bridge players -- United States
Card games
Contract bridge
Contract bridge -- Tournaments

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Speeches

Geographic Names

United States -- Race relations

Names

Daly, Victor

Daly,Victor

American Bridge Association

American Contract Bridge League