



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

Guide to the

George Padmore letters

1930 - 1945

Sc MG 624

Summary

Creator: Padmore, George, 1902-1959

Title: George Padmore letters

Date: 1930 - 1945

Size: 1 folder

Source: Hazel O'Reilly, October 1997.

Abstract: This collection consists of ten letters from George Padmore (1903 - 1959) to his friend and confidant Cryil Ollivierre, MD, a fellow Trinidadian. The letters are informal and warm, summarizing some of the major events taking place in Padmore's life at that time. His views of the world and people are also expressed in his letters. The collection includes a booklet, *The Voice of Coloured Labour: The Speeches and Reports of Colonial Delegates to the World Trade Union Conference*, 1945.

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/scm/request_access

Preferred citation: [Item], George Padmore letters, Sc MG 624, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Rosalie P. Jeter on December 13, 1997.12-13-97

Creator History

George Padmore was born in Arouca, Trinidad in 1903. Padmore received his early education in Trinidad and worked there for two years as a journalist at the *Trinidad Guardian* newspaper. He later became a student at Fisk University in Tennessee, where he earned a B.A. He continued his studies at Howard University, where he earned a law degree. It was while attending Howard that he became

associated with the Communist Party.

Padmore held many positions in the Communist Party in Russia and Germany, which allowed him to travel throughout Europe and Africa. In 1934, Padmore was removed from his position as editor of "The Negro Worker" (published by the Communist Party in Germany) by the Hitler regime, imprisoned for 6 months, and deported to Great Britain. It was subsequent to these events that he severed his ties with the Communist Party. In 1945, Padmore assisted Kwame Nkrumah in organizing the first Pan-African Congress in Manchester, England. In 1957, Nkrumah invited Padmore to relocate to Ghana and become his advisor. Padmore was responsible for systematizing and coordinating the liberation movements of Africa and the formation of the African Liberation Movement. Additionally, Padmore was the author of several books, including *How Britain Rules Africa* (1936), *Africa and World Politics* (1937) and *Africa, Britain's Third Empire* (1949). He died in London on September 24, 1959, after being flown there for medical care from Ghana.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of ten letters from George Padmore (1903 - 1959) to his friend and confidant Cyril Ollivierre, MD, a fellow Trinidadian. The letters are informal and warm, summarizing some of the major events taking place in Padmore's life at that time. His views of the world and people are also expressed in his letters. The collection includes a booklet, *The Voice of Coloured Labour: The Speeches and Reports of Colonial Delegates to the World Trade Union Conference, 1945*.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American communists
African Americans -- Social conditions
Black author
Blacks -- Civil rights
Communism -- United States -- History -- 20th century
Pan-Africanism

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Letters (correspondence)

Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government -- 20th century

Names

Padmore, George, 1902-1959

Container List

Letters from George Padmore to Cryil Ollivierre

*The Voice of Cloured Labour: Speeches and Reports of Colonial Delegates
to the World Trade Union Conference 1945*