



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

Guide to the

Claudia Jones research collection

1935 - 1998

Sc MG 699

Summary

Creator: Sherwood, Marika

Title: Claudia Jones research collection

Date: 1935 - 1998

Size: .66 linear feet (two archival boxes)

Source: Gift, Marika Sherwood, September 2001.

Abstract: Claudia Cumberbatch Jones rose through the ranks of the Communist Party-USA to become one of its leaders. Between 1948 and 1955, she was arrested several times and imprisoned for violations of the Smith Act. She was deported to England in December 1955. Jones spent the last fourteen years of her life actively participating in the struggles of oppressed and poor people throughout the world. At the end of her life, Jones had earned the titles of "political theorist" and "activist" nationally and internationally. The Claudia Jones Research collection consists of material compiled by author Marika Sherwood during her research for a biography on Jones entitled *Claudia Jones: A Life in Exile*.

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], Claudia Jones research collection, Sc MG 699, 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 Nurah-Rosalie P. Jeter in November 2001.

Creator History

Claudia Cumberbatch Jones rose through the ranks of the Communist Party-USA to become one of its

leaders. Between 1948 and 1955, she was arrested several times and imprisoned for violations of the Smith Act. She was deported to England in December 1955. Jones spent the last fourteen years of her life actively participating in the struggles of oppressed and poor people throughout the world. At the end of her life, Jones had earned the titles of "political theorist" and "activist" nationally and internationally.

Scope and Content Note

The Claudia Jones Research collection consists of material compiled by author Marika Sherwood during her research for a biography on Jones entitled *Claudia Jones: A Life in Exile*. Comprised mainly of Freedom of Information Act documents on Jones and letters by Sherwood to those who knew and/or worked with Jones, the collection provides a glimpse of Jones's life just prior to her deportation and her early years in London.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American communists
African Americans -- Civil rights
Blacks -- Civil rights
Communism -- United States
Communist parties -- United States
Communists -- United States

Geographic Names

United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-1953
United States -- Politics and government -- 1953-1961

Names

Jones, Claudia, 1915-1964
Sherwood, Marika
Communist Party of the United States of America

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Notes 1955 - 2000
- b. 1 f. 2 United Kingdom interviews 1997 - 1998
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence 1997 - 2000
- b. 1 f. 4 Department of Justice 1955 - 2000
- b. 1 f. 5 United States Archives 1955 - 1997
- b. 1 f. 6 United Kingdom Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (multiple agencies) 1949 - 1997
- b. 1 f. 7 National Civil Liberties Council 1955 - 1957
Newspaper clippings
- b. 1 f. 8 United Kingdom 1958 - 1964
- b. 1 f. 9 United States 1937 - 1958
United States FOIA
FBI
- b. 2 f. 1 1952 - 1955
- b. 2 f. 2 1955 - 1956
- b. 2 f. 3 1953 - 1956
- b. 2 f. 4 1952 - 1961
- b. 2 f. 5 1945 - 1948
- b. 2 f. 6 1942 - 1946
- b. 2 f. 7 1951 - 1952
- b. 2 f. 8 FBI and Department of Justice 1948 - 1952