

**Radio Scripts
Collection**

The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, New York 10037

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RADIO SCRIPTS COLLECTION, 1937-1966.
5½ archival boxes, 27½ linear inches.

Historical Sketch

The Radio Scripts Collection is an artificial grouping of scripts from radio programs that were developed to show the contributions of African Americans to the social, economic, political and historical development of the United States. Many of the scripts were created for public service programs during the 1940's to foster national unity and better race relations.

Scope and Contents

The Radio Scripts Collection consists of transcripts of radio programs, both serials and single broadcasts. Among the serials that are included are "Freedom's People" sponsored by the Federal Security Agency of the U.S. Office of Education (1941-1942); "Give me Liberty" sponsored by the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom (1939); "Native Sons" written by Kirk Lord and Frank Griffin; "National Urban League" sponsored by the organization of the same name during its annual Vocational Opportunity Campaign (1941-1951); "Unity at Home; Victory Abroad" consisting of speeches and dramatizations of the lives of African Americans and whites (1943); "New World a-Comin'". (1944-1946); and "Within Our Gates" presented by the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission to deal with the problem of intolerance and bigotry and to provide all citizens equal opportunity and equal rights (1945-1948).

The largest group of scripts in the Radio Scripts Collection is from the radio series "New World a-Comin'". This program was based on the prize-winning bestseller of the same name by Roi Ottley. The radio series was broadcast weekly from 1944-1966 at station WMCA in New York, with the cooperation of the City-wide Citizens' Committee on Harlem. Many programs were directed by Mitchell Grayson, narrated by Canada Lee, and featured a variety of guest stars. The series consists of dramatizations of individuals' lives, and events, which impacted the lives of all minorities in the United States. The major focus was black related themes - national and New York City history, labor and migrant workers, the participation of African Americans during World War II, health issues, education, Jim Crow and aspects of racial discrimination are among the issues discussed. Guest authors included Owen Dodson, "Roll Call" and "They Knew Lincoln," and Howard Fast, author of the script "Freedom's Road."

There are also several single scripts including, "Speech of Paul Robeson," "Hampton Institute Forum of the Air, 1944", "Lincoln, Douglas and the Honor Roll In the Race Relations," and "Wings over Jordan."

Source

Collection processed by staff of the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division.
SCM 80-8

Container List**Box Folder**

| | | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | | New World A Comin' |
| | 1 | March-April, 1944 |
| | 2 | May - October 15, 1944 |
| | 3 | October 22 - December, 1944 |
| | 4 | January - February, 1945 |
| | 5 | March - May, 1945 |
| 2 | | New World A Comin' |
| | 1 | October 8 - December, 1945 |
| | 2 | January - February 12, 1946 |
| | 3 | February 19 - March 1946 |
| | 4 | April - May, 1946 |
| | | Within Our Gates |
| | 5 | January - March, 1945 |
| 3 | 1 | April - June 10, 1945 |
| | 2 | June 17, 1945 - January 19, 1947 |
| | 3 | March, 1947 - March, 1948 |
| 4 | 1 | Give Me Liberty, 1939 |
| | 2 | Those Who Have Made Good, 1941 |
| | 3 | Freedom's People, 1941 – 1942 |
| | 4 | National Urban League, 1941-1951 |
| | 5 | Unity At Home, Victory Abroad, 1943 |
| | 6 | Wings Over Jordan, 1943-1944 |
| | 7 | Hampton Institute Forum of the Air, 1944 |
| | 8 | These Are Americans, 1944 |
| | 9 | United Negro College Fund, 1944 |
| 5 | 1 | Minority Opinion, 1945 |
| | 2 | Harlem – USA, January 1948 - March 1949 |
| | 3 | Women's World, 1949-1950 |
| | 4 | Segregation and the Law, 1950 |
| | 5 | Ideological Special, 1951 |
| | 6 | WLIB, 1953 |
| | 7 | The Eternal Light, 1959-1964 |
| | 8 | Africanist Attitudes, 1963 |
| | 9 | Voice of America, 1966 |
| | 10 | Great Americans, n.d. |
| | 11 | Native Sons, A-E |
| | 12 | Native Sons, G-W |

Container List

Box Folder

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|---|---|--|
| 6 | 1 | <p>Miscellaneous Broadcasts, 1937-1942</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> America's Negro Soldiers CBS National Urban League Show The Contributions of the Negro to American Culture Giants of Freedom Grand Central Station Haiti Island of Romantic History Lincoln, Douglas and the Honor Roll in the Race Relations My People: The Story of the Negro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 5, 1942 October 24, 1942 National Committee, Communist Party of the United States - Speech of James W. Ford on Washington's Birthday Negro Labor in the Present Crisis Negro Labor Spurns Hitlerism and Stalinism The Negro March On Washington Of Men and Books <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Script 1 Script 34 Program for Negro History Week The River Salute to Negro Troops Silver Anniversary of the National Negro Health Week |
| | 2 | <p>Miscellaneous Broadcasts, 1943-1944</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBS Open Letter On Race Hatred Labor For Victory Man Behind the Gun News and Views by John B. Hugues The Negro Press- Special Edition The Roll of the Student in the Dramatic Fight of Freedom for the Common Man - Station CURC (Columbia University) Spirit of '43 Station WEVD - Segregation in Peace and War Talk by Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick Your War Job - The War Manpower Commission and The United Employment Service starring Lionel Hampton and his Orchestra Music |

Container List

Box Folder

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|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | <p>Miscellaneous Broadcasts, 1944</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between Americans The Blue Playhouse – He Was a Working Man Destination – Tomorrow Forum: Is Swing a Cause of Juvenile Delinquency Frederick Douglas and the Honor Roll in Race Relations Here's to Youth Lands of the Free Negro Newspaper Week New Yorkers All -- Heroes All Speech of Paul Robeson Storyland Theatre - The Cat and the Queen The Southernaires They Call Me Joe The Washington Front The Workers and Merchants of Harlem |
| 4 | | <p>Miscellaneous Broadcasts, 1946-1951, n.d.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> America Answers Americans All Bed Time Story; For Adults Only Democracy at Work Democratic National Committee God is Two People House of Mystery Interview with Mme. Bethune Liberian Centennial The Negro Looks at the Municipal Campaign The Negro Salutes Democracy and National Defense People Make Music: African Music in South America People Make Music: African Rhythms in Haiti and Trinidad The Shoe Pinches Mr. Samuels Talk On Tolerance Through Music by Canada Lee Time for a Progress Report Win the War Radio CIO, Freedom Grows WQXR Broadcast - Negro Chorus of Navy Singers From the Naval Training School Glee Club at Hampton Institute |