

**UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTIONS**

**The New York Public Library**

**Schomburg Center for Research  
in Black Culture**

**515 Malcolm X Boulevard  
New York, New York 10037**

## Universal Negro Improvement Association Miscellaneous Collections

MG 442

### Black Star Line, Inc.

Black Star Line certificates issued to Mrs. Mabel Dossett in trust for Rosalia Spence, and Alfred A. Lilly trustee for Percival S. Lilly. Check for \$50, made out to the Black Star Line. Printed letter from Marcus Garvey on letterhead of the Office of the Black Star Line Steamship Corporation, to "Dear Comrade, and fellow Stock Holder," December 1, 1920. 1919-1920 (4 items)

### Osiris and Sydney Debourg,

Two letters to Osiris DeBourg concerning his ownership of shares in the Black Star Line; a receipt for shares in the Black Star Line; two notes for loans to construction; letter from Sydney DeBourg to his son Osiris; advertising card for "de Bourg's Rheumatica." (Photograph of Albert DeBourg transferred to Photograph Collection) 1919-1921 (7 items)

### Drax, Orgus

Two Black Star Line stock certificates and two membership certificates for Orrie Drax and Rosalia Phyfer and two membership dues cards in the UNIA for Orrie Drax. 1918-1920 (6 items)

### Uriah Gittens

Uriah Gittens was Executive Secretary of the New York Local of the UNIA during the 1920s, while Marcus Garvey was imprisoned. The collection consists of 22 letters written and received by Gittens, including a 7-page letter by Gittens to Garvey in London, England, no date. 1920-1929 (37 pages)

### Gershom E. Harris Collection

Gershom E. Harris was president of the Garvey Club, Inc during the 1940s, which was founded by Marcus Garvey. Also known as the New York Garvey Club, it was the parent organization of the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), Central Division in New York City. The UNIA split ranks with the Garvey Club in 1927 because of conflicts among the leadership. By 1929, the Garvey Club became officially affiliated with Garvey's Jamaica-based UNIA and African Communities League. Included in this collection are letters, certificate of incorporation, dues cards, song lyrics, a contract and clippings. Letters from Marcus and Amy Jacques Garvey, UNIA and Garvey Club officers H. Holmes, B.J. Spencer Pitt, Cleophas T. Jacobs, James R. Stewart and Samuel A. Haynes to Harris concern the on-going development of both the Garvey Club and the UNIA. 1929-1948 (25 items)

### Garvey, Marcus Letter

Photocopy of letter from Garvey to Lady Simon in England regarding the negative portrayal of blacks in films such as "Sanders of the River" and "The Song of Freedom" (both starring Paul Robeson), and to seek her assistance in stopping "the exhibition of these libelous and slanderous Pictures against the Negro race.." Included is a six page resolution. 1936.

### Membership

1 membership certificate - Rosalia Phyfer

### Negro World

Letter from the Governor of the colony of British Guiana to Winston Churchill regarding allowing the Negro World to be distributed in British Guiana. 1922 (2 pages)

## **Songs and Hymns**

Songs and hymns connected with the UNIA, including "Shine on Eternal Light" and "From Greenlands to Icy Mountains.". 1924, no date. (4 items)

## **James Wallace**

The James Wallace Collection consists of 8 stock certificates for the Black Cross Navigation & Trading Co. Inc., African Redemption Fund, Black Star Line, Inc., Construction Loans, and a membership certificate. Also included are membership loan books, 4 form letters acknowledging contributions, a fund-raising letter for the African Redemption Fund and an application form requesting transportation to Liberia, West Africa, along with a small news clipping of Marcus Garvey on his way to jail and a postcard with Garvey's picture and UNIA flag. 1921-1929 (22 items)

## **Cecil A. Walters**

Seven (7) letters addressed to Walters, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Universal African Nationalist Movement, and three (2) programs for events convened by the UNIA and Universal African Nationalist Movement, Inc. 1924-1928 (10 items)

## **British Colonial Office UNIA documents**

Photocopies of correspondence concerning the British colonial government's surveillance of United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) members and activities in the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia from 1922-1923. The documents also record the efforts to keep Garvey and other UNIA members out of the aforementioned countries through hastily introduced laws. Specific reference is made to Marcus Garvey, (Bishop) George Alexander McGuire, Francis Weber, H. W. Wilson, William Ferris, Farmer, Daugherty and John Karma among others of the UNIA.

## **Marcus Garvey Letters**

Letters from Garvey written after his 1927 deportation to Jamaica, including two 1929 letters soliciting funds to aid Garvey's campaign for a seat in the Jamaican legislature and a 1931 one seeking funding for a trip to Europe. Also included in the folder is a poster with photographs of Garvey and other UNIA members.

## **Garvey, Amy Jacques**

Letter from Mrs. Garvey to William L. Katz. She refers to Marcus Garvey as the "First National Hero of Jamaica" and sends Mr. Katz a fifty cent note and ten cent stamp, both of which contain Garvey's image. The stamp is pasted to the letter, the fifty cent note is not included. 1970.

## **'Life and Times of Marcus Garvey' Posters (copies)**

Thirteen (13) poster prints documenting the life and times of Marcus Garvey (1887-1940) to commemorate the centenary of his birth, 1987. Items were transferred from the Art and Artifacts Division.

**\*Located in Oversize flat draw**