



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

Guide to the

The black Jacobins: typescript, by C.L.R. James

1967

Sc MG 891

Summary

Creator: James, C. L. R. (Cyril Lionel Robert), 1901-1989

Title: The black Jacobins: typescript, by C.L.R. James

Date: 1967

Size: 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Purchased.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Historian and Marxist intellectual of many talents, Cyril Lionel Robert James was born in Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago, in 1901, and died in London, England, in 1989. James was prominent in the Pan-African and anticolonial movements of the mid-twentieth century; he is well known for historical studies of the Black struggle for independence. In the book *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*, generally regarded as his masterwork, he analyzes the socioeconomic roots and leading personalities of the Haitian revolution of 1791-1804, the first and only slave revolt to achieve political independence in world history. According to an interview, C.L.R. James had dramatized *The Black Jacobins* in 1936 in England, before he wrote the book, and Paul Robeson played the leading part in 1936. In 1967, when the colonial struggles for emancipation had developed, he rewrote it. The play was staged in Nigeria, in New York, on the BBC in London, and in Jamaica. Hand-corrected typescript, with additions and corrections by the author; with author's autograph.

Preferred citation: [Item], *The black Jacobins: typescript, by C.L.R. James*, Sc MG 891, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Historian and Marxist intellectual of many talents, Cyril Lionel Robert James was born in Chaguanas, Trinidad and Tobago, in 1901, and died in London, England, in 1989. James was prominent in the Pan-African and anticolonial movements of the mid-twentieth century; he is well known for historical studies

of the Black struggle for independence. In the book *The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution*, generally regarded as his masterwork, he analyzes the socioeconomic roots and leading personalities of the Haitian revolution of 1791-1804, the first and only slave revolt to achieve political independence in world history. According to an interview, C.L.R. James had dramatized *The Black Jacobins* in 1936 in England, before he wrote the book, and Paul Robeson played the leading part in 1936. In 1967, when the colonial struggles for emancipation had developed, he rewrote it. The play was staged in Nigeria, in New York, on the BBC in London, and in Jamaica.

Scope and Content Note

Hand-corrected typescript, with additions and corrections by the author; with author's autograph.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American dramatists

Authors, Black

Drama -- Stage scripts

Haiti -- History -- Revolution, 1791-1804 -- Drama

Slave insurrections

Names

James, C. L. R. (Cyril Lionel Robert), 1901-1989

Toussaint Louverture, 1743-1803