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Guide to the

**United States Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts
Press agent's files**

1964-1966

Sc MG 220

Summary

Creator: United States Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts

Title: United States Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts Press agent's files

Date: 1964-1966

Size: 0.63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of the Museum of the City of New York, October 1984.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: The First World Festival of Negro Arts took place April 1-24, 1966, in Dakar, Senegal; it demonstrated the cultural ties between African nations and the rest of the world, and the impact of Black culture upon world culture. The records of the United States Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts Press agent's files consist of administrative materials.

Preferred citation: [Item], United States Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts Press agent's files, Sc MG 220, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

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Creator History

The First World Festival of Negro Arts took place April 1-24, 1966, in Dakar, Senegal; it demonstrated the cultural ties between African nations and the rest of the world, and the impact of Black culture upon world culture. The festival involved the participation of forty-five African, European, West Indian, and North and South African countries. Conceived by Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor, the festival highlighted Black literature, music, theater, visual arts, film, and dance.

The festival was held under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO), the government of Senegal, and the Society of African Culture. While most other nations relied on governmental procedures to arrange participation in the festival, the United States formed a private, volunteer committee. Mrs. Virginia Inness-Brown and Dr. John A. Davis chaired the U.S. Committee and coordinated American representation at the festival. Broad-based funding sources included the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Information Agency, Agency for International Development, foundations, corporations, and private donors.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the United States Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts Press agent's files consist of minutes of committee meetings, correspondence pertaining to the planning for American participation in the festival, pre-festival informational packets, biographical information of festival participants and U.S. Committee members, lists of material sent to the festival, press releases, material regarding a reception held for President Leopold Senghor of Senegal, and post-Festival reports. There is also a script by William Greaves, however, it is not clear if it is a draft or the final script for the film he produced on the Festival.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American artists
African Americans in the performing arts
Art festivals
Blacks in the performing arts
Performing arts festivals -- Africa

Names

Greaves, William
Senghor, Le_opold Se_dar, 1906-2001
United States Committee for the First World Festival of Negro Arts
World Festival of Negro Arts

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 2 Minutes 1964-1965
- b. 1 f. 3 Biographical sketches
- b. 1 f. 4 Lists of materials sent
- b. 1 f. 5 Press releases 1965-1966
- b. 1 f. 6 Pre-Festival packets
- b. 1 f. 7-8 Presented papers
- b. 2 f. 1 Reception for President Leopold S. Senghor
- b. 2 f. 2 Post-Festival report 1966 August
- b. 2 f. 3 Film script by William Greaves 1966 December