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Guide to the

Robert H. Beecher papers

1941-1987

Sc MG 272

Home to Harlem Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Beecher, Robert Houston, 1914-1987

Title: Robert H. Beecher papers

Date: 1941-1987

Size: 2.5 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Gift, Clarence Beecher, 1988

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: Robert H. Beecher was a Panamanian-born educator who worked as a high school teacher, administrator, and community liason in the Bronx, then as an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Education Foundations at Hunter College. The Robert H. Beecher papers contain personal papers, correspondence, writings and research materials relating to education in the Panama Canal Zone and the education of minorities in the United States.

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Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Robert H. Beecher was a Panamanian-born educator. Beecher's elementary education took place in Jamaica, his parents' country of origin before they migrated to Panama at the time of the construction of the Canal. He graduated from the University of Panama in 1948 and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1951. He served as a college and high school teacher in the Canal Zone until 1956, when he migrated to the United States. Hired by the New York City Board of Education in 1958, he worked first as a high school teacher, then as an administrator and community liason in the Bronx. He obtained his Ph D. at New York University in 1968 and became, the following year, an adjunct associate professor in the Department of Education Foundations at Hunter College. At the time of his death, he was working jointly with his brother, Dr. Clarence Beecher, on a bibliography on the slave trade in Panama.

Scope and Content Note

The Robert H. Beecher papers contain personal papers, correspondence, writings and research materials relating to education in the Panama Canal Zone and the education of minorities in the United States. Included are papers documenting Beecher's career as a New York City school teacher and community coordinator for school district 12 in the Bronx as well as his interest in issues relating to Panama and Panamanians of West Indian heritage. Also included are transcripts of interviews with black political figures from Central Brooklyn including Judge Thomas R. Jones, Andrew and Jocelyn Cooper, Patrick Carter, Assemblyman Thomas Fortune, Judge Joseph B. Williams, Jim Greenidge, Kasisi Jitu Weusi and Bertram Baker and the thesis, "Perspectives on Power: A Black Community Looks at Itself" by Carlos E. Russell which incorporates these interviews. Note that the thesis is missing chapters five and six. Other individuals represented in the collection are Clarence Beecher and two Panamanian labor leaders, Ed Gaskin and George Westerman.

Arrangement: I. Personal; II. Professional; III. Research and Writing Series; IV. Panama and Canal Zone; V. Other Authors

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Education
Black author
Blacks -- Panama -- Canal Zone
Community and school -- United States
Education, Elementary -- Panama
Education, Urban -- United States
Minorities -- Education (Elementary) -- United States
Multicultural education -- United States
Slave trade -- Panama

Geographic Names

Panama -- Race relations

Names

Baker, Bertram L. (Bertram Llewellyn), 1898-1985
Beecher, Clarence
Beecher, Robert Houston, 1914-1987
Carter, Patrick
Cooper, Andrew W., 1927-2002
Fortune, Thomas R.
Gaskin, Ed
Greenidge, Jim
Jones, Thomas R., 1913-2006
Russell, Carlos
Westerman, George W.
Weusi, Kasisi Jitu
Williams, Joseph B., 1922-1992

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- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical Material
- b. 1 f. 2 Education 1941-1967
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence 1955-1986
- b. 1 f. 4 Awards and Honors
- b. 1 f. 5 Activities 1959-1984

Panamanian Associations

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- b. 1 f. 7 Club Altamira 1965-1977
- b. 1 f. 8 Panamanian Cultural Action Committee
- b. 1 f. 9 Panamanian-Americans in Action 1978
- b. 1 f. 10 Panamanian West Indian Association 1985
- b. 1 f. 11 Society for the Study of West Indian Heritage in Panama 1976
- b. 2 Diaries and Appointment Books 1956-1985

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- b. 3 f. 5 Education Professions Development Act (EPDA) Institute on "Minority Studies" 1969
- b. 3 f. 6 International Biographical Center 9th Congress 1982
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Teaching Career

- b. 3 f. 9 Morris High School 1965-1969
- b. 3 f. 10 Hunter College 1970-1974

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- b. 3 f. 11 General 1968-1977
- b. 3 f. 12 Correspondence 1968-1974
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- b. 3 f. 15 Grant Application for "Project Going After Brilliance" 1977
- b. 3 f. 16 "For My People Everywhere: Event in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."
- b. 3 f. 17 Superintendent Felton E. Lewis 1978

Research and Writings

- b. 4 f. 1 Research Goals 1982-1986

Research and Writings (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 2 Research Trip Notes – Mexico 1969-1975
- b. 4 f. 3 Research Trip Notes – Colombia 1982-1983
- b. 4 f. 4 Panama Research Materials
Dissertation
- b. 4 f. 5 Thesis Proposal Outline 1962
- b. 4 f. 6 Correspondence 1962-1966
- b. 4 f. 7 Dissertation Research Materials 1963

Panama and Canal Zone

- b. 5 f. 1 Comments by Ambassador Sol Linowitz on the Panama Canal 1977
- b. 5 f. 2 Juan Antonio Stagg, Consul General of New York - Speech Given at Auburn University 1978
- b. 5 f. 3 Norman Williams, "Take Heed America" 1978
- b. 5 f. 4 Overview of the Canal Zone School Systems and Policies 1972
- b. 5 f. 5 Arquitectos y Arquitecturas de la Reforma Educativa en Panama 1975
- b. 5 f. 6 Report on the Panama Zone Government and the Panama Canal Company Personnel Policies 1974
- b. 5 f. 7 Study of Various Personnel Policies of the Canal Organization and Other Federal Agencies in the Canal Zone 1976
- b. 5 f. 8 Michael L. Conniff, "Black Labor on a White Canal: West Indians in Panama, 1904-1980" conference paper 1983
- b. 5 f. 9 Michael E. Smith, "The Growth and Development of the Canal Zone College" dissertation 1973
- b. 5 f. 10 Ed Gaskin Papers 1942-1969
- b. 5 f. 11 Ed Gaskin Papers 1970-1987
- b. 5 f. 12 George Westerman 1976-1983

Other Authors

- b. 5 f. 13 Clarence Beecher 1976-1977
- b. 5 f. 14 Nicholas A. Botseas, "Summer School in the Streets" 1973
- b. 5 f. 15 Nesha Haniff, "Profiles of Women in Contemporary Caribbean History"
- b. 5 f. 16 Darlene Clark Hine, "Inequalities in Historical Images: The Struggles of Black Women in Indiana" 1982

Carlos E. Russell

- b. 6 f. 1 Miscellaneous 1975
"Perspectives on Power: A Black Community Looks at Itself"
- b. 6 f. 2 Chapter 1
- b. 6 f. 3 Chapter 2
- b. 6 f. 4 Chapter 3
- b. 6 f. 5 Chapter 4
- b. 6 f. 6 Transcripts of Interviews with Black Political Figures from Central Brooklyn 1976-1977
- b. 6 f. 7 Ralph Segalman, "The Immigrant Poor and the Residual Poor" 1966