



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

Guide to the

School of African Philosophy collection

1938

Sc MG 482

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

Summary

Creator: School of African Philosophy

Title: School of African Philosophy collection

Date: 1938

Size: 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Gift, Brooks-Omulepa, Sonia P, 04/--/93

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

Abstract: Correspondence course originated by Marcus Garvey in 1937 which was designed to train Universal Negro Improvement Association officials and organizers for leadership positions. The School of African Philosophy course consisted of twenty-one lessons and covered forty-two subjects ranging from communism to diplomacy to love. Garvey intended to give the students a view of the world that would not only replace pervasive Eurocentric philosophy, but would also affirm them as black people so that they could become actors in their own fate. Only graduates of the School could become official representatives of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. The themes of the lessons were replete with Garvey's philosophy of success and prosperity with an emphasis on discipline. Throughout 1938 and 1939, the School of African Philosophy advertised in "The Black Man" as a correspondence course. The School of African Philosophy collection consists of a 1938 letter sent to Ms. Hazel Escribge, along with nine lessons and the Declaration of Oath. The latter includes a commitment to prevent other people from seeing the lessons, especially other races.

Preferred citation: [Item], School of African Philosophy collection, Sc MG 482, 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

Correspondence course originated by Marcus Garvey in 1937 which was designed to train Universal Negro Improvement Association officials and organizers for leadership positions. The School of African

Philosophy course consisted of twenty-one lessons and covered forty-two subjects ranging from communism to diplomacy to love. Garvey intended to give the students a view of the world that would not only replace pervasive Eurocentric philosophy, but would also affirm them as black people so that they could become actors in their own fate. Only graduates of the School could become official representatives of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. The themes of the lessons were replete with Garvey's philosophy of success and prosperity with an emphasis on discipline. Throughout 1938 and 1939, the School of African Philosophy advertised in "The Black Man" as a correspondence course.

Scope and Content Note

The School of African Philosophy collection consists of a 1938 letter sent to Ms. Hazel Escridge, along with nine lessons and the Declaration of Oath. The latter includes a commitment to prevent other people from seeing the lessons, especially other races.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Education
African Americans -- Race identity

Names

Garvey, Marcus, 1887-1940
School of African Philosophy
Universal Negro Improvement Association