

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

Guide to the **Edward S. Lewis papers** 1918-1986 [bulk 1948-1986] Sc MG 116

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

Summary

Creator: Lewis, Edward S. (Edward Shakespear)

Title: Edward S. Lewis papers

Date: 1918-1986 [bulk 1948-1986]

Size: 6.0 linear feet (6 boxes)

Source: Gift, Edward S. Lewis, October, 1985

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

Abstract: The Edward S. Lewis Papers, 1918-1986 (bulk 1948-1986), consist primarily of printed material. In the General series there are: correspondence, with letters from Senator Walter Mondale and Robert C. Weaver; memoranda; minutes; travel itineraries and printed matter. Lewis' trips to East and West Africa, leading delegations of educators and peace advocates, are well documented in the collection. Also documented, are the anti-apartheid activities of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency, Lewis' tenure on the New York State and the Presidential Consumer advisory councils; and the Manhattanville tenants and condominium owners' advocacy organization for which he was a board member.

Conditions Governing Access:

Access to New York Urban League material is restricted, excluding printed matter.

Preferred citation: [Item], Edward S. Lewis papers, Sc MG 116, 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

Edward Shakespear Lewis was an Urban League executive from 1927-1964. He served as executivesecretary of the Kansas City (Mo.) Urban League from 1927-1931, executive director of the Baltimore Urban League, from 1931-1942, and executive director for the Urban League of New York City, from 1942-1964.

During his tenure, the Baltimore Urban League campaigned against Jim Crow policies, for employment of Blacks in the war/military industry, and for better housing. Under his leadership, the borough chapters of the Urban League in New York City were centralized into the Urban League of Greater New York, and took on the issues confronting the urban poor. After earning a Ph.D. from New York University in 1964, Lewis resigned from the Urban League and became a professor in the co-operative education department at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC.) At the time of his retirement from BMCC, Lewis had served as Dean of Co-operative Education, the first black president of the National Co-operative Education Association and Assistant to the President of the College on community affairs. Lewis also served on the boards of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency (FPWA), the Manhattanville Community Center and several other civic organizations.

Scope and Content Note

The Edward S. Lewis Papers, 1918-1986 (bulk 1948-1986), consist primarily of printed material. In the General series there are: correspondence, with letters from Senator Walter Mondale and Robert C. Weaver; memoranda; minutes; travel itineraries and printed matter. Lewis' trips to East and West Africa, leading delegations of educators and peace advocates, are well documented in the collection. Also documented, are the anti-apartheid activities of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agency, Lewis' tenure on the New York State and the Presidential Consumer advisory councils; and the Manhattanville tenants and condominium owners' advocacy organization for which he was a board member. The Urban League series documents Lewis' years as a social work executive for the League from 1927-1964; subseries are: Baltimore, New York, and National. Included are clippings on the 'clean-up' Harlem campaign, co-sponsored by the Urban League of Greater New York, which addressed the quality of available housing and encouraged relocation to public housing projects. Lewis' files on the Borough of Manhattan Community College includes files on the development and expansion of the cooperative education program at the college under Lewis' leadership; the relationship between the college and the community in which it is located; the Amalgamated Workers Trade Union; the Louis and Irene Simon Scholarship, along with clippings and memos about the college and the CUNY system. The Cooperative Education series gives an overview of cooperative education in the United States over a twenty year (1964-1984) period. Included are: cooperative education training manuals; correspondence relating to Lewis' cooperative education consulting; professional articles; programs developed jointly between labor and college cooperative education programs; miscellaneous items regarding the National Cooperative Education Association and Lewis' presidency of the Association.

Arrangement: Four series: I. General; II. Urban League; III. Borough of Manhattan Community College; IV. Co-operative Education. Alphabetical within series and sub-series.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Africa -- Description and travel Harlem (New York, N.Y.) -- Economic conditions New York (N.Y.) -- Economic conditions

Subjects

African American college administrators -- United States African American college teachers African American youth -- New York (State) -- New York African Americans -- Education African Americans -- Employment African Americans -- Housing -- New York (State) -- New York African Americans -- Maryland -- Baltimore African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York African Americans -- Societies, etc Civic leaders -- Maryland -- Baltimore Civic leaders -- New York (State) -- New York Civic leaders -- United States Education, Cooperative -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Lewis, Edward S. (Edward Shakespear) Baltimore Urban League (Md.) Borough of Manhattan Community College HARYOU (Organization) Urban League of Greater New York

Container List

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	General
	Africa - West
b. 1 f. 1	1961
b. 1 f. 2	1971
b. 1 f. 3	Clippings
b. 1 f. 4	Newspaper Clippings 1969
b. 1 f. 5	Printed Material
b. 1 f. 6	Study Group 1971-1972
b. 1 f. 7	Africa - East 1975
b. 1 f. 8a	Certificates
b. 1 f. 8	Certificates of Appreciation
b. 1 f. 9	Columbus Park Towers 1969
b. 1 f. 10	Consumer Farmer Foundation 1969-1978
b. 1 f. 11	Consumer Fraud and Protection - Appointment Letter 1968
	Consumer's Advisory Council
b. 1 f. 12	Clippings
b. 1 f. 13	Correspondence A-D 1963
b. 1 f. 14	Memos
b. 1 f. 15	Minutes
b. 1 f. 16	Reports and Printed Matter
b. 1 f. 17	Statements
	Correspondence
b. 1 f. 18	1963-1977
b. 1 f. 19	Elected Officials 1962-1965
b. 1 f. 20	Walter Mondale (Senator)
	Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, Inc
b. 1 f. 21	Anti-Apartheid Activity
b. 1 f. 22	Anti-Apartheid Investment Policies - South Africa 1976-1979
b. 1 f. 23	Fundraising Report 1978
b. 1 f. 24	Community Leadership Training Project
b. 1 f. 25	Fresh Air Fund - Evaluations 1967-1980
b. 1 f. 26	Governor Conference on Volunteers, New York 1968 December Sponsored by the Women's Unit, Executive Chamber
b. 1 f. 27	Haryou Act Program - Community Action Institute - Consultat

- tion Institute Consultation with Executive Director 1965
- b. 1 f. 28 Haryou Act Program
- b. 1 f. 29 Manhattanville Community Centers, Inc 1974-1975
- b. 1 f. 30 Martin Luther King Funeral Program 1968
- b. 1 f. 31 Middle States Association of Colleges and High Schools 1971 Morningside Heights Housing Corporation

	General (cont.)
b. 1 f. 32	Morningside Heights Housing Corporation (cont.) 1980
b. 1 f. 33-34	undated
b. 1 f. 35	Columbia University Housing Struggle
b. 1 f. 36	New York City Board of Education - Integration 1964
b. 1 f. 37	New York Medal - Remarks by Robert F. Wagner
b. 1 f. 38	New York State Dinner Honoring Apollo 8 Astronauts 1969 January 10
	New York University
b. 1 f. 39	Alumni News Clippings
b. 1 f. 40	Book Reviews by Ed Lewis
b. 1 f. 41	Course 1957
b. 1 f. 42	Leadership in the Community 1965
b. 1 f. 43	Public Affair Committee, Inc Incorporation Papers Board Members 1972
b. 1 f. 44	Puerto Rico Visit 1962
b. 1 f. 45	Race Relations Clippings
b. 1 f. 46	Requests for Dr. Lewis's Personal Papers
b. 1 f. 47	Support Services Alliance, Inc Proposal 1977
b. 1 f. 48	Who's Who Entries 1974-1975
	Urban League
	National
b. 2 f. 1	Annual Conference 1942
b. 2A f. 2	Annual Conference Planning [Closed] 1942
b. 2 f. 3	Annual Report 1964-1967
b. 2A f. 4	Commemorative Journals [Closed] 1979-1980
b. 2A f. 5	Correspondence [Closed] 1942-1968
b. 2A f. 6	Fundraising [Closed]
b. 2 f. 7	Golden 50th Anniversary Yearbook 1910-1960
b. 2 f. 8	History
b. 2A f. 9	Joint Fundraising Campaign [Closed] 1942-1952
b. 2A f. 10	Joint Fundraising Campaign Evaluation [Closed]
b. 2 f. 11	Julius A. Thomas Society 1979
b. 2 f. 12	News (Rare Copy) 1962-1965
b. 2 f. 13	"Race and Housing: The Basic American Dilemma" by Earl B. Schwulst
b. 2	70th Anniversary 1910-1980
	Baltimore
b. 2 f. 15	Annual Report 1937-1938
b. 2 f. 16-17	Clippings
b. 2 f. 18	Conference Report 1940-1943
b. 2 f. 19-20	Correspondence
b. 2 f. 21	Correspondence from National Urban League
b. 2 f. 22	Correspondence - Personal
b. 2 f. 23	History 1924-1974

	Urban League (cont.) Baltimore (cont.)
b. 2 f. 24	Items from Scrapbook
b. 2 f. 25	Robert C. Weaver Letters 1940
	Articles
b. 2 f. 26	Afro-American, "Labor" by Edward Lewis
b. 2 f. 27	Baltimore Blacks and the CIO 1936-1941
b. 2 f. 28	Council of Negro Organizations Planning Meetings
b. 2 f. 29	Photographs (Copies)
b. 2 f. 30	Special Report: Educational Problems
b. 2 f. 31	The Journal of Black History, "An Ambiguous Legacy, Baltimore Blacks and the CIO" 1936-1941
b. 2 f. 32	"March on Annapolis," 2500 Negroes Present Their Problems to Governor H. R. O'Connor of Maryland
b. 2 f. 33	The Negro Community of Baltimore - Printed Matter
b. 2 f. 34	Writings by Edward Lewis 1941-1968
b. 2 f. 35	Miscellaneous Publications - Demographic and Sociological Data on African-Americans
	New York
b. 2 f. 36-37	Annual Reports
b. 2 f. 38	"Aspects of Urban Life in the Borough of Queens"
b. 2A f. 39	Correspondence [Closed]
b. 2 f. 40	Committee on Current Educational Problems of Negroes
b. 2 f. 41-42	Harlem Clean-Up
b. 2 f. 43	Luncheon Honoring Dr. Edward Lewis
b. 2 f. 44	Press Releases
b. 2 f. 45	60th Anniversary
	Urban League of Greater New York
b. 2 f. 46	Program Prospectus 1952-1954
b. 2 f. 47	Annual Report 1954-1956
	Dissertation
b. 3 f. 1	Draft, "The Changing Role of the New York Urban League"
b. 3 f. 2	"The Urban League: A Dynamic Instrument in Social Change" Pages 1-157
b. 3 f. 3	"The Urban League: A Dynamic Instrument in Social Change" Pages 158-312
	Borough of Manhattan Community College
	Labor Unions - Education
	Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union
b. 3 f. 4	First Constitutional Convention, Los Angeles
b. 3 f. 5	Second Constitutional Convention, Detroit
b. 3 f. 6	Clippings
	Louis and Irene Simon Scholarship Fund, Inc 1967-1976
b. 3 f. 7	Commemorative Booklets

	Borough of Manhattan Community College (cont.) Labor Unions - Education (cont.) Louis and Irene Simon Scholarship Fund, Inc (cont.)
b. 3 f. 8	Eighteenth Anniversary
b. 3 f. 9	Scholar Section
b. 3 f. 10	Sixth Annual Scholarship Luncheon 1970 May 24
b. 3 f. 11	Survey
b. 3 f. 12	Murray Cohen Memorial Scholarship Fund 1967-1968
	American Society for Training and Development
b. 3 f. 13	Chapter Administration Manual
b. 3 f. 14	Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies 1967-1969
b. 3 f. 15	Affirmative Action Committee
b. 3 f. 16	Assistant to the President in Community Relations 1975
b. 3 f. 17	Career Day Programs
b. 3 f. 18	Clippings
b. 3 f. 19	Commencement and Other Pamphlets 1975-1977
b. 3 f. 20	Community Action
b. 3 f. 21	Correspondence
b. 3 f. 22	Dean of College 1972
b. 3 f. 23	Dean - Cohen, Leon
b. 3 f. 24	Dean - Goldberg, Edward
b. 3 f. 25	Dean of Faculty Memoranda, Eric James 1964-1966
b. 3 f. 26	Ethos of an Institution, "Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Campus" 1974 June 6
b. 3 f. 27	Faculty
b. 3 f. 28-29	Faculty Related Papers
b. 3 f. 30	Faculty Requirements
b. 3 f. 31	Faculty and Staff Newsletter 1968 January
b. 3 f. 32	Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Campus 1974 June 6
b. 3 f. 33	International Student 1973
b. 3 f. 34	News
	President
b. 3 f. 35	Block Activities 1965-1966
b. 3 f. 36	Miscellaneous 1966-1970
b. 3 f. 37	Seminars 1975
b. 3 f. 38	Report of the Task Force on the Educational Mission of CUNY
b. 3 f. 39	Support Services Alliance 1976-1980
b. 3 f. 40	Tenth Anniversary Report 1963-1974
b. 3 f. 41	Tenth Anniversary Public Relations Committee Report I
b. 4 f. 1	Tenth Anniversary Public Relations Committee Report II
b. 4 f. 2	Tenth Anniversary Report: "The Decade from 1963/1964 - 1973/1974"
b. 4 f. 3	West/East Africa Tour 1969-1976
b. 4	Statistical Report and Articles on Blacks
b. 4 f. 5	Wiley, John and Sons, Inc., Cooperative Work Experience Education 1974- 1975

	Co-operative Education
b. 4 f. 6	Articles
	BMCC Cooperative Education
b. 4 f. 7	Association 1971
b. 4 f. 8	Coordinating Committee on Cooperative Education 1972-1974
b. 4 f. 9	Consultant Correspondence
b. 4 f. 10	Committee Correspondence
b. 4 f. 11	Division Conference
b. 4 f. 12	Historical Background
b. 4 f. 13	International Conference, Program Planning Session
b. 4 f. 14	Lewis, E.S Writings
b. 4 f. 15	Meeting - Minutes
b. 4 f. 16	Nominating Committee Report 1970-1974
b. 4 f. 17	"The Philosophy and Purpose of the Cooperative Education Program at Borough of Manhattan Community College"
b. 4 f. 18	Scholarship Funds 1969-1970
b. 4 f. 19	Tenth Anniversary
b. 4 f. 20	Training Council
b. 4 f. 21	Training Projects A
b. 4 f. 22	Training Projects B
b. 4 f. 23	Training Projects C
b. 4 f. 24	City University of New York Training 1975
	Consulting
b. 4 f. 25	Aetna Life and Casualty, Connecticut 1972
b. 4 f. 26	Alabama A & M University
b. 4 f. 27	American Management Association
b. 4 f. 28	Antioch College, Yellow Springs 1974
b. 4 f. 29	Bennett College, North Carolina 1973
b. 4 f. 30	Brooklyn College
b. 4 f. 31	Castleton State College, Vermont 1942-1973
b. 4 f. 32	Grambling College, Louisiana 1974
b. 4 f. 33	Harrah's, Nevada 1971
b. 4 f. 34	Interracial Council for Business Opportunity 1966-1967
b. 4 f. 35	Management Internship Program
b. 4 f. 36	Medgar Evers College, City University of New York, Brooklyn, NY
b. 4 f. 37	Mid-Atlantic Center for Cooperative Education, Virginia 1973
b. 4 f. 38	Minnesota Community College Consortium 1974
b. 4 f. 39	Morgan State
b. 4 f. 40	Normandale State Junior College, Minnesota 1974
b. 4 f. 41	Oscar-Rose Junior College, Oklahoma 1974
b. 4 f. 42	Rust College, Mississippi 1974

	Co-operative Education (cont.) Consulting (cont.)
b. 4 f. 43	Spelman College, Atlanta 1980
b. 4 f. 44	State University of New York, Agricultural and Technical College Integration of Student Body, Staff, and Faculty 1970-1971
b. 4 f. 45	Thank You Letters
b. 4 f. 46	Tuskegee Institute
b. 4 f. 47	United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Bureau of Higher Education 1973
b. 4 f. 48	Villa Maria College, Buffalo, New York 1974
b. 4 f. 49	Western Nevada Community College, Nevada 1974
b. 4 f. 50	Wilberforce University - Jomo Keyatta Project 1975
b. 4 f. 51	Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina 1980
b. 4 f. 52	Xavier University, Louisiana 1972
b. 4 f. 53	Correspondence 1964-1975
b. 4 f. 54	Newsletters
	Greater New York Co-operative Education Training
	Council Organization
b. 5 f. 1	Book 1 1972-19876
b. 5 f. 2	Book 1A
b. 5 f. 3	Book 2A
b. 5 f. 4	Book 2B
b. 5 f. 5	Conference 1975 July 8-10
b. 5 f. 6	"How To Do IT" Reference Guide - University of Maine
	National Cooperative Education Association
b. 5 f. 7	Organization Book
b. 5 f. 8	Placement Book
b. 5 f. 9	Work Book I
b. 5 f. 10	Work Book II
b. 5 f. 11	Newsletter
b. 5 f. 12	New York State Cooperative Experiential Education Association
b. 5 f. 13	Office of Economic Opportunity/Cooperative Employment
b. 5 f. 14	Placement
b. 5 f. 15	Printed Materials
b. 5 f. 16	Program Evaluation Study and Questionnaire
b. 5 f. 17	Program Flyers and Brochures - Various Colleges
b. 5 f. 18	Training Program Proposal
b. 5 f. 19	Journal of Cooperative Education 1973 November-1974 May
b. 5 f. 20	Journal of Cooperative Education 1976 November
b. 5 f. 21	United States Office of Education - Cooperative Education Section
	Newspaper Clippings
b. 5 f. 22	Blacks in Higher Education
b. 5 f. 23	Education
b. 5 f. 24	Writings by Ed Lewis

Printed Matter

Borough of Manhattan Community College

- b. 6 f. 1 Epoch 1966
- b. 6 f. 2 Master Plan 1970 September
- b. 6 f. 3 President's Executive Summary 1970 July 13
- b. 6 f. 4 Prism 1968
- b. 6 f. 5 Employer Data Bank, Borough of Manhattan Community College and Dun and Bradstreet
- b. 6 f. 6 Employer Experience with: Analysis of Costs and Benefits Highlights of a Research Under Study 1965
- b. 6 f. 7 Fifth Views 1974
- b. 6 f. 8 The New Work Study Programs in Soviet Education 1965
- b. 6 f. 9 Office of Placement and Career Planning, Long Island University -Handbook
- b. 6 f. 10 Retail Management in Action: A Workbook 1971
- b. 6 f. 11 Social Issues of Marketing in the American Economy 1971
- b. 6 f. 12 Twelfth International Conference, Eleventh Annual Southern Regional Conference 1976 April 20-23