



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

Guide to the

Jessica B. Davis Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters collection

1937-1991

Sc MG 426

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

Summary

Creator: Davis, Jessica Bell

Title: Jessica B. Davis Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters collection

Date: 1937-1991

Size: 0.67 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of the estate of Jessica Bell Davis, 1991

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

Abstract: The Jessica B. Davis Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters collection consists of the constitution and history of the BSCP, programs, anniversary and commemorative booklets, speeches and writings by A. Philip Randolph, and news clippings by and about Randolph. There are also tributes to this union leader during his lifetime, and an address and press release for the 1942 planned March on Washington.

Preferred citation: [Item], Jessica B. Davis Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters collection, Sc MG 426, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Related Materials:

Jessica B. Davis Key Women of America files, Sc MG 620, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Jessica Bell Davis (?-1991) was the daughter of an official of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, James H. Bell, and also the wife of the union official, Clarence E. Davis. She was a teacher in addition to a director and supervisor under A. Philip Randolph, for whom she worked for forty-five years.

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) organized railway porters (traditionally an occupation for African Americans) to bargain with the Pullman Company, which held a virtual monopoly on the nation's sleeping car facilities. The BSCP was organized in 1925 in New York City. A. Philip Randolph, an editor and labor advocate, became its president in 1928. In the mid-1930's the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and the New Deal's National Mediation Board recognized the BSCP.

Scope and Content Note

The Jessica B. Davis Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters collection consists of the constitution and history of the BSCP, programs, anniversary and commemorative booklets, speeches and writings by A. Philip Randolph, and news clippings by and about Randolph. There are also tributes to this union leader during his lifetime, and an address and press release for the 1942 planned March on Washington. Additionally, there are yearbooks and other printed material from the A. Philip Randolph Campus High School at City College in New York City (1983-1989), and representing both the St. Catherine A. M. E. Zion Church in New Rochelle, New York and the Key Women of America are programs, newsletters and other printed material. Included are a few letters and an obituary for Davis.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American churches -- New York (State) -- New Rochelle
African Americans -- Employment
Porters -- Labor unions
Pullman porters
Railroads -- Employees -- Labor unions
Working class -- United States

Names

Davis, Jessica Bell
Randolph, A. Philip (Asa Philip), 1889-1979
A. Philip Randolph Campus High School (New York, N.Y.)
Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters
Key Women of America, Inc
Negro March on Washington Committee
St. Catherine A.M.E. Zion Church (New Rochelle, N.Y.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters Constitution and General Rules, History of the Organizing of BSCP 1938
- b. 1 f. 2 Programs 1937-1975
- b. 1 f. 3 Penn Parlor Attendants - Program 1977
 - A. Philip Randolph
- b. 1 f. 4 Speeches 1942-1961
- b. 1 f. 5 Writings 1939-1942
- b. 1 f. 6 Invitations 1945-1979
- b. 1 f. 7 Tributes 1947-1977
- b. 1 f. 8 March on Washington Movement 1942
 - A. Philip Randolph Campus High School New York City
- b. 1 f. 9 Programs 1983-1989
- b. 1 f. 10 Yearbook 1986
- b. 1 f. 11 Yearbook 1989
- b. 2 f. 1 Newspapers with Articles by and about A. Philip Randolph 1942
- b. 2 f. 2 News Clippings by and about A. Philip Randolph 1946-1983
- b. 2 f. 3 Key Women of America, Inc 1981-1982
- b. 2 f. 4 Jessica B. Davis Correspondence and Obituary 1960-1991
 - St. Catherine A.M.E. Zion Church, New Rochelle, New York
- b. 2 f. 5 Printed Matter 1973-1975
- b. 2 f. 6 Printed Matter 1976
- b. 2 f. 7 Printed Material - Miscellaneous 1961-1983