



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

Guide to the

Hulan Jack papers

1941-1960

Sc MG 478

Summary

Creator: Jack, Hulan E. (Hulan Edwin), 1906-1986

Title: Hulan Jack papers

Date: 1941-1960

Size: 17.59 linear feet (22 boxes, 1 oversize folder)

Source: Gift of Almira Jack, 1993.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Hulan Edwin Jack was the first Black borough president in New York City, representing Manhattan from 1954-1961. The Hulan E. Jack papers document Jack's years in the New York State Assembly and his tenure as borough president.

Preferred citation: [Item], Hulan Jack papers, Sc MG 478, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Diana Lachatanere, April 1994.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio material. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Related Materials:

Hulan Jack's "Fifty years a democrat" transcript, Sc MG 909, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

Hulan Edwin Jack was the first Black borough president in New York City, representing Manhattan from 1954-1961. Born in the British West Indies in 1906, he immigrated to the United States at age 16 and later attended New York University. A Democrat, Jack was elected to the New York State Assembly from 1940-1953 and 1968-1972. As an assemblyman, Jack was known as a fighter for civil and human rights, successfully introducing legislation to end discrimination in employment in 1945, as well as discrimination in public and semi-public housing. He also introduced bills for the welfare of laborers, veterans, and children. As borough president, he helped secure funding for major improvements in highways and public transportation, as well as public works projects.

In 1959, Jack was indicted for accepting a \$4500 renovation on his apartment from a businessman who was doing business with the city, and resigned the borough presidency in 1960. In 1972, while an assemblyman, he was fined and convicted of conflict of interest charges. That same year he was defeated by a Harlem political opponent. Although Jack's political career as an elected official had ended in 1980, he served on two committees to give further economic support to Africa: the National Democratic Policy Committee and the committee for a New Africa Policy. Hulan Jack died in 1986 in New York City.

Scope and Content Note

The Hulan E. Jack papers document Jack's years in the New York State Assembly, via his constituent correspondence, and his tenure as borough president, via correspondence and subject files. For the most part, the correspondence deals with routine matters: requests for employment, invitations to functions, his participation as an honorary member on committees of civic organizations, and requests from meetings with labor and other groups. Subject files include speeches, lists of African Americans in New York City government in the 1950s, information on his re-election campaign, a 1954 trip to Puerto Rico to attend a conference regarding migration of Puerto Ricans to New York, and public relations activities such as requests for donations of money. Other files discuss Jack's membership in the National Democratic Club and executive membership in the New Deal Democratic Club. There is also a file on a political dispute between Jack and U.S. Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., 1958.

The collection also includes Jack's appointment calendars from his terms as borough president, 1954-1960, and an extensive clipping file and scrapbooks of clippings. The latter cover every New York City development Jack was associated with between 1954 and 1958, including the razing of the Third Avenue El, the development of the Coliseum, street pavings, plans for building baseball stadiums, and other city improvements.

Arrangement: Arranged into 2 series: I. New York State Assembly and II. Manhattan Borough President.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American politicians
African Americans -- Civil rights
Authors, Black
Political clubs -- United States

West Indian Americans

West Indian Americans -- Political activity -- New York (State) -- New York

Geographic Names

New York (N.Y.) -- Politics and government -- 1951-

Names

Jack, Hulan E. (Hulan Edwin), 1906-1986

Powell, Adam Clayton, Jr., 1908-1972

Container List

New York State Assembly 1941-1953

Constituent correspondence 1941-1953

- b. 1 f. 1 1941
- 1942
- b. 1 f. 2-4 General
- b. 1 f. 5-7 Alphabetical
- 1943
- b. 1 f. 8 General
- b. 1 f. 9-10 Alphabetical
- b. 1 f. 11-12 1945
- b. 1 f. 13-14 1946
- b. 1 f. 15 1947
- b. 1 f. 16-18 1949
- b. 1 f. 19-22 1951
- b. 1 f. 23-25 1953
- b. 1 f. 26 Acts 1949-1952

Manhattan Borough President 1949-1960

Arranged alphabetically, followed by appointments, calendars, scrapbooks, and clippings, all arranged chronologically.

- b. 2 f. 1 A 1954-1955
- b. 2 f. 2 Activities 1954-1955
- b. 2 f. 3 Advisory Planning Board 1954
- b. 2 f. 4 Articles
- b. 2 f. 5 B 1954-1960
- b. 2 f. 6 Boy Scouts 1958-1959
- b. 2 f. 7 Brazilian Government Trade Bureau 1954-1957
- b. 2 f. 8 C 1954-1959
- Campaign
- b. 2 f. 9 Jack, Hulan E 1957
- b. 2 f. 10 General 1957
- b. 2 f. 11-12 Letters 1957
- b. 2 f. 13 Catholic Club of New York 1954-1958
- b. 2 f. 14 Catholic Laymen's Union, Layman's National Committee 1955-1959
- b. 2 f. 15 Catholicism 1956-1958
- b. 2 f. 16 Christmas lists
- b. 2 f. 17 Clubs and organizations 1954-1960
- b. 2 f. 18 Commendations received
- b. 2 f. 19 Community Planning Board 4 appointees
- b. 2 f. 20 Condolences 1954-1959
- b. 2 f. 21 Congratulations received 1954-1959

Manhattan Borough President (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 22 Congratulations sent 1954-1959
- b. 2 f. 23 Contributions
- b. 2 f. 24 D 1954-1959
- b. 2 f. 25 Democratic County Committee 1956-1959
- b. 2 f. 26 Democratic State Committee 1954-1958
- b. 2 f. 27 De Sapio, Carmine clippings
- b. 2 f. 28 Democratic State Convention proceedings
- b. 2 f. 29 Descriptions of division functions 1954
- b. 2 f. 30 E-F
- b. 2 f. 31 Education
- b. 2 f. 32 G 1955
- b. 2 f. 33 Ghana and Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah 1958
- b. 2 f. 34 Greetings 1954-1959
- b. 2 f. 35 H
- b. 2 f. 36 Harlem Hospital 1958
- b. 2 f. 37 Honorary commissioners 1954-1957
- b. 2 f. 38 Hoover Commission 1959
- b. 2 f. 39 Housing
- b. 2 f. 40 Interfaith movement 1954-1959
- b. 2 f. 41 Interviews 1960
- b. 3 f. 1-2 Jack, Almira 1957-1960
Includes appointments and thank you letters.
Jack, Hulan
 - b. 3 f. 3 Congratulatory telegrams 1953 November
 - b. 3 f. 4 Induction speech 1953
 - b. 3 f. 5 Biographical sketches 1954-1959
 - b. 3 f. 6 Testimonial dinner 1954 April 27
 - b. 3 f. 7 Personal 1954-1960
 - b. 3 f. 8 Letters of support 1959-1960
 - b. 3 f. 9 Leadership campaign 1959
 - b. 3 f. 10 Birthday greetings 1959
 - b. 3 f. 11 Speeches
 - b. 3 f. 12 United Democratic Leadership Team 1960
 - b. 3 f. 13 Jack, Hulan, Jr. (Edwin) 1959
 - b. 3 f. 14 Jack, Julienne C 1959
 - b. 3 f. 15 Jewish New Year acknowledgements 1956-1959
 - b. 3 f. 16 Job seeker resumes 1955-1959
 - b. 3 f. 17 K
 - b. 3 f. 18 Knights of Columbus, Archbishop Hughes General Assembly 4th Degree
 - b. 3 f. 19 L
 - b. 3 f. 20 "Let's Find Out" broadcast, CBS 1959 March

Manhattan Borough President (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 21 Letters of introduction 1954-1960
- b. 3 f. 22 Letters of recommendation 1954-1960
- b. 3 f. 23 M 1954-1955
- b. 3 f. 24 Manhattan Aid to Youth 1954-1959
- b. 3 f. 25 Memoranda, intradepartmental 1955
- b. 3 f. 26 N 1955-1956
- b. 3 f. 27 Nassau Street shopping mall 1955
- b. 3 f. 28 National Democratic Club 1954-1959
- b. 3 f. 29 Negroes 1953-1959
- b. 3 f. 30-31 New Deal Democratic Club 1954-1960
- b. 3 f. 32 New York City intergroup relations
- b. 3 f. 33 O
 - b. 4 f. 1 P 1955
 - b. 4 f. 2 Permanent Advisory Committee
 - b. 4 f. 3 Phi Beta Sigma (Epsilon Sigma Chapter)
- b. 4 f. 4-5 Political 1949-1959
 - b. 4 f. 6 Powell, Adam C., Jr. letters 1958
- b. 4 f. 7-8 Programs
- b. 4 f. 9-11 Puerto Rico 1954-1959
 - b. 4 f. 12 R
 - b. 4 f. 13 Recordings 1954-1957
 - b. 4 f. 14 Reports by Jack 1954-1957
- b. 4 f. 16-18 Requests for meetings and positions 1954-1959
 - b. 4 f. 19 S 1954-1959
 - b. 4 f. 20 St. Thomas the Apostle Church
 - b. 4 f. 21 Salary scales of city officials 1954
 - b. 4 f. 22 Savoy Ballroom 1958
 - Schedules
 - b. 4 f. 23 1958
 - b. 4 f. 24 1959-1960
 - Sponsors
 - b. 5 f. 1 1954-1956
 - b. 5 f. 2 1957-1959
 - Telegrams
 - b. 5 f. 3 1954-1956
 - b. 5 f. 4 1957-1960
 - b. 5 f. 5 Telephone calls 1958
 - b. 5 f. 6 Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority memoranda
 - b. 5 f. 6 U-V
 - b. 5 f. 8 Urban renewal memo 1955 September
 - b. 5 f. 9 W

Manhattan Borough President (cont.)

b. 5 f. 10 X-Z

b. 5 f. 11 Zoning resolutions

Appointment books and calendars

b. 6 f. 1-3 1954

b. 6 f. 4-5 1955

b. 6 f. 6-7 1956

b. 7 f. 1-2 1957

b. 7 f. 3-4 1958

b. 7 f. 5-6 1959

b. 7 f. 7 1960

Card file of addresses

b. 8 A-J

b. 9 K-S

b. 10 T-Z

Scrapbooks

b. 11 vol. 1-2 1954-1955

b. 12 vol. 3-4 1956-1957

b. 13 vol. 5 1957-1958

b. scrapbook vol. 6 1958-1959

Clippings

b. 14 f. 1-2 1954

b. 14 f. 3-5 1955

b. 14 f. 6-9 1956

b. 15 f. 1-4 1957

o. 1 Various dates

Invitations

b. 15-17 Declined 1954-1960

b. 18-20 Accepted 1954-1960

b. 21 Thank you letters 1954-1958