Summary

Creator: Manchanda, Claudia

Title: Claudia Jones Memorial collection

Date: 1935-1998

Size: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)


Abstract: Claudia Jones (1915-1964) was a political activist, communist, journalist, and community leader. The Claudia Jones Memorial collection consists primarily of printed matter apparently owned by Jones.

Preferred citation: [Item], Claudia Jones Memorial collection, Sc MG 692, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English


Separated Materials: Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs and negatives

Creator History

Claudia Jones (1915-1964), political activist, communist, journalist, and community leader, was born in Trinidad and immigrated to the U.S. in 1924, with her parents and siblings. During the 1930s and 1940s, she became a strong advocate for human, civil, and women's rights and rose in the Communist Party-USA to a position of leadership. She was appointed editor of Negro Affairs for the Daily Worker in 1948, and that same year, she was arrested for violation of the Smith Act. Between 1948 and 1955, Jones was arrested and imprisoned twice and finally deported to England in December 1955, after serving a sentence of a year and a day at the Aldersen Federal Women's Prison.
From 1955 to 1964, Jones worked with London's African-Caribbean community doing political and cultural organizing. She founded and edited *The West Indian Gazette* and the *Afro-Asian Caribbean News*, and in 1959, helped organize a series of cultural events that grew to become the Notting Hill Carnival. Jones died on December 24, 1964, after a long illness.

Claudia Manchanda is the daughter of Abhimanyu Manchanda, Jones's friend and companion.

**Scope and Content Note**

Claudia Jones Memorial collection consists primarily of printed matter apparently owned by Jones. There is a relatively small volume of material relating to Jones's personal and political activities. Bon-voyage postcards, letters, and telegrams sent to her on her departure from the United States following deportation are the only documents that deal with her life in the United States. The collection also contains poems Jones wrote while in prison and during her voyage to England. There are several notebooks chronicling her experiences during trips she took to China and Japan. A folder on Paul Robeson includes a booklet *Paul Robeson Goes to Washington*, and a transcript of his appearance before the Smith Act Congressional Hearing Committee. Also contained in the Robeson folder are promotional materials for his appearances in London from 1956-1962; correspondence between the Robesons' and Jones; a transcript of a speech by Jones delivered at a reception for the Robesons held in London; and Robeson speech notes. A folder labeled "Bailey, Frank /Manchanda, Abhimanyu /Jones, Claudia controversy" contains letters, notes, and other information concerning charges that were filed against Jones and Manchanda by Frank Bailey, a member of the Communist Party, who was also involved in working with the Afro-Caribbean community in London. The printed matter consists of booklets and monographs on a variety of subjects, including race and gender. Authors include James Allen, Herbert Aptheker, Ben Davis, George W. Crockett, Elizabeth Flynn Gurley, James Ford, Harry Haywood, and Claudia Jones.

**Key Terms**

**Subjects**
- African American communists
- African Americans -- Civil rights
- Authors, Black
- Communist parties -- United States
- Political prisoners -- United States
- Women -- Political activity
- Women political activists -- Great Britain
- Women political activists -- United States
- Women, Black

**Genre/Physical Characteristic**
- Poems

**Geographic Names**
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1945-1953
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1953-1961

**Names**
# Container List

**Personal**

b. 1 f. 1  Divorce decree, Mexico 1947

b. 1 f. 2-3  Bon voyage letters, telegrams, cards, and notes

b. 1 f. 4  Insurance

b. 1 f. 5  Poems

b. 1 f. 6  British passport  
   Includes correspondence.

b. 1 f. 7  Notes

b. 1 f. 8  Biographical letter

b. 1 f. 9  Letters

b. 1 f. 10  Travel Credit Limited

b. 1 f. 11  Landlord tenant issues, London  
   Correspondence 1956-1964

b. 1 f. 12  Foster, Bill 1956

b. 1 f. 13  Davis, Ben 1956-1962

b. 1 f. 14  Robinson, Heloise 1956-1962

b. 1 f. 15  *Freedomways and John H. Clarke* 1964

b. 1 f. 16  1955 December-1956 January

b. 1 f. 17  U.K. miscellaneous 1956-1963

b. 1 f. 18  Manchandra, Abhimanyu

b. 1 f. 19  Postcards

b. 1 f. 20  Robeson, Paul 1958-1964  
   Includes the pamphlets, *Paul Robeson Goes to Washington*, *The Negro People and the Soviet Union*, and *Lift Every Voice for Paul Robeson*.

b. 1 f. 21  U.S. Communist Party

b. 1 f. 22  Newspaper clippings 1956-1982

b. 1 f. 23  Activity flyers

Organizations in Great Britain 1956-1959

b. 1 f. 24  Stars Campaign for Inter-Racial Friendships 1959

b. 1 f. 25  Caribbean organizations 1956-1959

b. 1 f. 26  West Indians in Britain Standing Conference

b. 1 f. 27  Inter Racial Friendship, Co-ordination Council

b. 1 f. 28  Committee for Inter-Racial Unity, West London

b. 1 f. 29  Afro-Asian Caribbean organizations

b. 1 f. 30  Britain-China Friendship Association  
   Communist Party Great Britain 1956-1965

b. 2 f. 1  West Indian Committee

b. 2 f. 2  Bailey, Manchanda, Jones issues 1958-1965

b. 2 f. 3  Correspondence to Jones

b. 2 f. 4  Speech by Jones, 25th Congress of C.P.G.B 1957
Committee for Democratic Rights, USA
Colonial Advisory Committee
24th National Congress political report 1956
Daily Worker 1958-1962
Colored People Publishing House bank information
Educational Publishing in Africa seminar 1965 February 4
Asia travels
Notes
China
10th World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs, Tokyo
Reports on China and Japan trips
Memorial service
Program
Speeches by various speakers
Legal
Claudia Jones Memorial Committee
Headstone
Documentary film research material
Photograph copies
Printed matter
Generally arranged alphabetically by author or title.

13 Communists Speak to the Court 1953 March
Allen, James. Negro Liberation
Aptheker, Herbert. The Negro in the American Revolution
Black, Hugo L. A Fateful Moment in Our History
Bradley, Hugh. Next Steps in the Struggle for Negro Freedom 1953 November
Can Americans Tolerate Prison for Ideas?
Courage Is Contagious: The Bill of Rights vs. The Un-American Activities Committee 1953
Crockett, George W. Freedom Is Everybody's Job: The Crime of the Government Against the Negro People
Davis, Benjamin J
In Defense of Negro Rights
Political Affairs
Declaration of Principles and By-Laws of the Young Communist League of the U.S.A. 1937 May
Gurley, Elizabeth Flynn, "Speaks to the Court: Opening Statement to the Court and Jury in the Case of the Sixteen Smith Act Victims in the Trial at Foley Square, New York" 1952 July
Printed matter (cont.)

b. 3 f. 16  
Falconer, Alun. I Saw New China

b. 3 f. 17  
Ford, James W. The Communists and the Struggle for Negro Liberation

b. 3 f. 18  

b. 3 f. 19  
"French Intellectuals Appeal to President" 1957 December 18

b. 3 f. 20  
Green, Abner. The Walter-McCarran Law: Police-State Terror against Foreign-Born Americans 1953

Haywood, Harry

b. 3 f. 21  
Negro Liberation

b. 3 f. 22  
"The Road to Negro Liberation" 1934 June

b. 3 f. 23  
Howard, Milton. McCarthyism and the Big Lie 1953 November

b. 3 f. 24  
Hutchins, Grace. Children under Capitalism 1933

Jones, Claudia

b. 3 f. 25  
Lift Every Voice for Victory 1942 June

b. 3 f. 26  
An End to the Neglect of the Problems of the Negro Woman 1949 June

b. 3 f. 27  
Macmillan Books for Schools in the Caribbean Masses and Mainstream

b. 3 f. 28  
"Negro History Week 1953: For Peace and Freedom"

b. 3 f. 29  
"A Marxist View of Psychoanalysis" 1949 September

b. 3 f. 30  
"Negro History Week" 1952 February

Mitchells, Louise

b. 3 f. 31  
America's Housing Crisis

b. 3 f. 32  
How to Fight High Prices

b. 3 f. 33  
No Color Bar against Commonwealth Immigrants

b. 3 f. 34  
North, Joseph. Verdict against Freedom, Your Stake in the Trial 1949 November

b. 3 f. 35  
Our Badge of Infamy: A Petition to the United Nations on the Treatment of the Mexican Immigrant 1959 April

b. 3 f. 36  
"Pettis Perry Speaks to the Court" 1953 July

b. 3 f. 37-38  
Political Affairs 1956

b. 3 f. 39  
Small, Sasha. "Heroines"

b. 3 f. 40  
"Terror in Kenya: The Facts behind the Present Crisis" 1953 April

b. 3 f. 41  
Text of broadcast of the People's National Congress over Station B.G.B.S

b. 3 f. 42  
The American Way 1954 March

b. 3 f. 43  
Jackson, T. A. The British Empire

b. 3 f. 44  
The Communist Position on the Negro Question missing? 1947

b. 3 f. 45  
Gurley, Elizabeth Flynn. The McCarran Act: Fact and Fancy

b. 3 f. 46  
The United Colored Citizens Association

b. 3 f. 47  
The Walter McCarran Law, extracts from testimony before President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization

b. 3 f. 48  
The West Indies: The Federal Principle

b. 3 f. 49  
Vernon, Hilda. Vietnam-United States Dirty War

b. 3 f. 50  
Voices for Freedom #2 1951 October
Printed matter (cont.)

b. 3 f. 51  "We Accuse: Bill Epton Speaks to the Court"

b. 3 f. 52  Gurley, Elizabeth Flynn. "Women Have a Date with Destiny"

b. 3 f. 53  Woodis, Jack. *The Mask Is Off: An Examination of the Activities of Trade Union Advisors in the British Colonies*

b. 3 f. 54  Zetkin, Claire. "Lenin on the Woman Question"