

James Aronson - W.E.B. Du Bois Collection

1946-1983

2 boxes (1.5 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 292

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Materials written by or pertaining to W.E.B. Du Bois, collected by James Aronson, who was executive editor of the "National Guardian" from 1948 to 1967. Includes correspondence, speeches by Du Bois in published form, articles by Du Bois, biographical sketches and tribute articles about Du Bois, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

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Scope of collection

The collection consists of materials from James Aronson's personal papers that were written by or pertain to W.E.B. Du Bois. Aronson served as the executive editor of the *National Guardian*, "the longest-lived and most prestigious of... postwar radical newspapers, from 1948 to 1967. **1** The *National Guardian* was created to provide a dissenting voice during the intensification of the Cold War and McCarthy era, a vehicle for the Progressive Party, and to push for the expansion and radicalization of New Deal policies. **2** The *National Guardian's* commitment to free speech and oppositional politics during the Red Scare provided Du Bois a forum to both make a living and be heard while the U.S. government sought to limit his influence. During this fifteen year span, a period that Aronson later explained as a time in which "almost no one else would

publish him," Du Bois produced over 130 articles for the National Guardian. **3**

Correspondence includes letters from Shirley Graham Du Bois to Aronson, speeches by Du Bois in published form, articles by and about Du Bois, photographs, and newsclippings. Most of Du Bois' articles that appeared in the National Guardian between 1948 and 1963 are included. The articles covered an array of topics, but were principally concerned with pacifism, socialism, Pan Africanism, African socialism, African history, African American history, and critiques of the anti-democratic nature of McCarthyism, capitalistic exploitation and its impact on non-white nations and people, and racism in the U.S. Articles about Du Bois are also included, including several biographical sketches and a series of tributes written between 1951 and 1983.

The speeches included in the collection are from the late 1940s and early 1950s and were made while Du Bois was campaigning for Progressive Party presidential candidate Henry Wallace and during Du Bois's senatorial campaign on the American Labor Party Ticket in New York in 1950. The photographs included are from 1958 and were taken in both London and the U.S.

The newspaper clippings, 1947 to 1964, cover a range of events including the government's attempt to charge Du Bois with being an "agent of a foreign power"; the government's refusal to issue Du Bois passports throughout the 1950s, including its refusal to allow him to attend Ghana's 1957 independence celebration; and press coverage from around the world regarding Du Bois's death in 1963.

Footnotes

Dan Georgakas, "National Guardian/Guardian" in *Encyclopedia of the American Left*, 2nd ed., edited by Mari Jo Buhle, Paul Buhle & Dan Georgakas (Oxford University Press, 1998), 529.

The editors of the paper, in fact, even tried to secure funding from the Progressive Party, but to no avail. The *National Guardian's* first issue contained an article written by Progressive Party presidential candidate Henry Wallace. At the state level the paper was aligned with the American Labor Party, an Independent-Socialist ticket that sponsored the Gubernatorial campaign of Guardian co-editor John McManus and the Senatorial campaign of Du Bois.

Cedric Belfrage and James Aronson, *Something to Guard: The Stormy Life of the National Guardian, 1948-1967* (Columbia University Press, 1978), 138.

Collection inventory

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Correspondence (Shirley Graham Du Bois with Aronson)	1961-1970	Box 1: 7
Speeches by W.E.B. Du Bois (typescripts and/or published versions)		Box 1
Wallace rally, Golden Gate Ballroom, New York	Oct. 29, 1948	Box 1: 8
Press conference, Hotel Theresa	Sept. 24, 1950	Box 1
American Labor Party rally, Golden Gate Ballroom	Oct. 5, 1950	Box 1
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The Causes of War, Right to Advocate Peace meeting, Town Hall, New York	Sept. 28, 1951	Box 1
Statement on indictment	1951	Box 1
St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce	Feb. 27, 1952	Box 1
American Socialist Party book reception	Nov. 16, 1952	Box 1
Progressive Party convention, Ashland Auditorium, Chicago	July 4, 1952	Box 1
Save the Rosenbergs rally, Civil Rights Congress, Central Plaza, New York	Oct. 23, 1952	Box 1
The American Labor Party, ALP dinner, Hotel Aster	Sept. 30, 1953	Box 1: 9
The Stalin Peace Prizes, Hotel Theresa	Sept. 3, 1953	Box 1
Germany - War or Peace rally	Oct. 8, 1954	Box 1
What is Wrong with the US?, Guardian's welcome meeting for Vincent Hallinan	Apr. 20, 1955	Box 1
The Exploitation of Colored Labor (excerpts), Committee to Further the Goals of Geneva	Oct. 28, 1955	Box 1
The Wealth of the West vs. A Chance for Exploited Mankind (from same speech as above) in National Guardian	1955	Box 1
Geneva and Africa	1955	Box 1
National Guardianship, 8th birthday dinner	Nov. 15, 1956	Box 1
Birthday celebration	Mar. 2, 1958	Box 1
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Negro History Week celebration

91st Birthday (condensation), Peking University, China	Feb. 23, 1959	Box 1: 10
World Peace Council	May 1959	Box 1
Speech in Moscow	1959	Box 1
Murder and Destruction for Human Progress, Rally for Peace and Disarmament, Toronto	Feb. 7, 1960	Box 1
The Wrongs which Suppress Our Rights, Emergency Civil Liberties Committee meeting, New Yorker Hotel	June 15, 1960	Box 1
On the Vast and Reckless Waste of Human Life (re: Louis Burnham)	June 20, 1960	Box 1
The Foreign Born, American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, Hotel Great Northern, New York		Box 1
Writings - Articles by W.E.B. Du Bois (published and unpublished)	Feb. 14, n.y.	Box 1: 11
Georgia: Torment of a State, NM	Sept. 10, 1946	Box 1
My Relations with the NAACP	ca 1948	Box 1
From McKinley to Wallace: My Fifty Years as a Political Independent, Masses and Mainstream	August 1948	Box 1
(Title unknown), <i>National Guardian</i> *	1952	Box 1
Uganda (unpublished)	1949	Box 1
Testimony, House Foreign Affairs Committee, in The Daily Compass	1949	Box 1
Statement on Korea	Oct. 4, 1950	Box 1
The Big Problem: To Get the Truth to the People, <i>National Guardian</i>	Jan. 24, 1951	Box 1
There Must Come a Vast Social Change in the US, <i>National Guardian</i>	July 11, 1951	Box 1
Why John Brown's Soul Marches On, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 14, 1951	Box 1
The Choice that Confronts America's Negroes, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 13, 1952	Box 1
The Elections (unpublished)	1952	Box 1
China (unpublished)	Jan. 7, 1953	Box 1
Corporation Democracy	Jan. 12, 1953	Box 1
The Commonsense Party	Apr. 6, 1953	Box 1
The Hard-bit Man in the Loud Shirts, <i>National Guardian</i>	1953	Box 1
He Knew the Common Man...Followed his Fate (re Stalin), <i>National Guardian</i>	1953	Box 1
On Cats, Public Manners and the Education of Educators	Mar. 23, 1953	Box 1
Cannot this Paralyzed Nation Awake?	Apr. 12, 1954	Box 1
A Third Party - or Even a Second	May 17, 1954	Box 1

American Negroes and Africa, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 14, 1955	Box 1: 12
Ethiopia: State Socialism under an Emperor, <i>National Guardian</i>	1955	Box 1
Slavery in the Union of South Africa, <i>National Guardian</i>	1955	Box 1
Question of Formosa	Feb. 14, 1955	Box 1
News release re: series on Africa in <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 7, 1955	Box 1
Let's Restore Democracy to America, <i>National Guardian</i>	Jan. 2, 1956	Box 1: 13
The Negro in America Today, <i>National Guardian</i>	Jan. 16, 1956	Box 1
How United are Negroes?, <i>National Guardian</i>	Jan. 23, 1956	Box 1
Democracy in America, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 13, 1956	Box 1
The Political Power of the South, <i>National Guardian</i>	Mar. 5, 1956	Box 1
The Theory of a Third Party, <i>National Guardian</i> , Mar 26 (also, as reprinted in The People's Peace Party Forum, Winamac, Indiana, May)	1956	Box 1
Cure for America's Disaster Lies within Ourselves (intended as closing remarks at debate on America's Road to Democracy and World Peace, Carnegie Hall, May 27), <i>National Guardian</i>	June 11, 1956	Box 1
Clean Out the Congress, <i>National Guardian</i>	June 25, 1956	Box 1
The Saga of Nkrumah (The Spectator column)	July 30, 1956	Box 1
Reform the US Senate or Lose your Democracy, <i>National Guardian</i>	Nov. 5, 1956	Box 1
Negro History Centenaries	Jan. 14, 1957	Box 1: 14
Will the Great Gandhi Live Again?, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 11, 1957	Box 1
The Collier's Story: It Had 4,000,000 Readers But It Died, <i>National Guardian</i>	Mar. 11, 1957	Box 1
A Future for Pan-Africa: Freedom, Peace, Socialism, <i>National Guardian</i>	Mar. 11, 1957	Box 1
Negroes and Socialism	Apr. 29, 1957	Box 1
Colombo: No Peace Delegate from US?	June 10, 1957	Box 1
Letter to Editor	June 24, 1957	Box 1
Watchword for Negroes: Register and Vote, <i>National Guardian</i>	July 8, 1957	Box 1
Does 'All Deliberate Speed' Mean 338 Years?, <i>National Guardian</i>	Nov. 4, 1957	Box 1
A Vista of Ninety Fruitful Years, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 17, 1958	Box 1
The Independocrat at the Dinner Table	July 7, 1958	Box 1
Africa Awakened, excerpted from Labour Monthly	Feb. 1959	Box 1
The Vast Miracle of China Today, <i>National Guardian</i>	June 8, 1959	Box 1
The Africans and the Colonialist Tactic, New Times, no. 7	1959	Box 1

The Lie of History as it is Taught Today, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 15, 1960	Box 1: 15
A Program of Reason, Right and Justice for Today, <i>National Guardian</i>	May 23, 1960	Box 1
Africa and World Peace, Bulletin of the World Council of Peace	June 1960	Box 1
John Brown's Battle for Kansas, <i>National Guardian</i>	June 6, 1960	Box 1
Letter to Editor, <i>National Guardian</i>	Oct. 10, 1960	Box 1
American Negroes and Africa's Rise to Freedom, <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 13, 1961	Box 1
A Logical Program for a Free Congo (partial), <i>National Guardian</i>	May 15, 1961	Box 1
For Africa, An Encyclopedia, Afro-American magazine	Oct. 21, 1961	Box 1
Africa Awake! Put on the Beautiful Robes of Socialism, The Ghanaian Times	Aug. 31, 1963	Box 1
The Independocrat at the Dinner Table (reprinted), <i>National Guardian</i>	Feb. 20, 1963	Box 1
The Negro Progressives		Box 1
The Negro Voter		Box 1
A Bitter Battle is Shaping Up, <i>National Guardian</i>		Box 1
Writings by Du Bois (pamphlets)		Box 1: 16
I Take My Stand for Peace	1951	Box 1
Peace is Dangerous	1951	Box 1
Socialism Today	1959	Box 1
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Asian Writers Conference, Tashkent	Oct. 1958	Box 1
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Signing portrait for John T. McManus, New York	Aug. 1958	Box 1
Interview Transcript, W.E.B. Du Bois and Al Morgan, Dumont Broadcasting	June 1957	Box 1: 18
Biographical Sketches and Vitae of WEBD		Box 1: 19
Bibliographies of W.E.B. Du Bois writings; book reviews of his books; prospecti for W.E.B. Du Bois books		Box 1: 20
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Ghana evening news	1957	Box 1
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Nelson, Truman (90th birthday)	1958	Box 1
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Emergency Civil Liberties Committee	1960	Box 1
Lenin Peace Prize	1960	Box 1
Ghanaian government, Kwame Nkrumah	1963	Box 1
Melish, William Howard	1963	Box 1
Aptheker, Herbert	1963	Box 1
Fritchman, Stephen H.	1963	Box 1
Du Bois Memorial Committee, Ossie Davis	1963	Box 1
Carnegie Hall Memorial, Shirley Graham Du Bois	1964	Box 1
Du Bois Centennial	1968	Box 1
Schomburg Bronze Head Dedication		Box 1
Aronson, James to Harvard Alumni	1969	Box 1
Speeches and Articles about W.E.B. Du Bois		Box 1: 22
Robeson, Paul, American Labor Party Rally, Madison Square Garden	Oct. 24 1950	Box 1
Kahn, Albert E, Agents of Peace (pamphlet)	1951	Box 1
Reddick, Lawrence, "Right to Advocate Peace" meeting address, Town Hall, New York	Sept. 28, 1951	Box 1
Hunton, Alpheus, Du Bois and Africa, Accra	Feb. 12, 1964	Box 1
Meyer, Howard N., WEB Du Bois and 'The Problem of the Color Line', Wall Street Journal	Feb. 23, 1968	Box 1
'Red Hunting beyond the Grave' The Nation	Apr. 1, 1968	Box 1
Duberman, Martin, Du Bois as Prophet, The New Republic	Mar. 23, 1968	Box 1
Pittman, John, A Long Night's Journey to Tomorrow's Sunrise, Daily World	Feb. 5, 1969	Box 1
Special issue on Du Bois and Black Liberation with articles by Aptheker, Hunton, Joseph North, Mindy Thompson, World Magazine	Feb. 21, 1970	Box 1
Marable, Manning, Peace and Black Liberation: The Contributions of WEBD	June 3, 1983	Box 1
(Du Bois in the National Guardian), paper by Lisa ?	n.d.	Box 1
Miscellaneous		Box 1: 23
Is Peace a Crime? The Case of the Peace Information Center, brochure, National Committee to Defend Dr. WEBD	ca 1951	Box 1
Resolution Adopted by the General Council of Local 600, United Auto Workers-CIO	Sept. 9, 1951	Box 1
Katanka, Michael, in London, article sent to Belfrage, typescript	n.y.	Box 1
The Philadelphia Transit Strike Of 1944, by Allan M.	June 1972	Box 1

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Grambs Aronson, 1990.

Processing Information

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Subjects

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- African Americans--History--1877-1964.
- National guardian.
- Socialism--Africa.
- United States--Race relations.

Names

- Aronson, James--Correspondence.

burial.

- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on democracy.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on pacifism.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on Pan-Africanism.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward

Du Bois, Shirley Graham, 1896-1977--
Correspondence.

- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Death and

Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on
socialism.

Genre terms

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