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Guide to Resources on the Caribbean and West Indies

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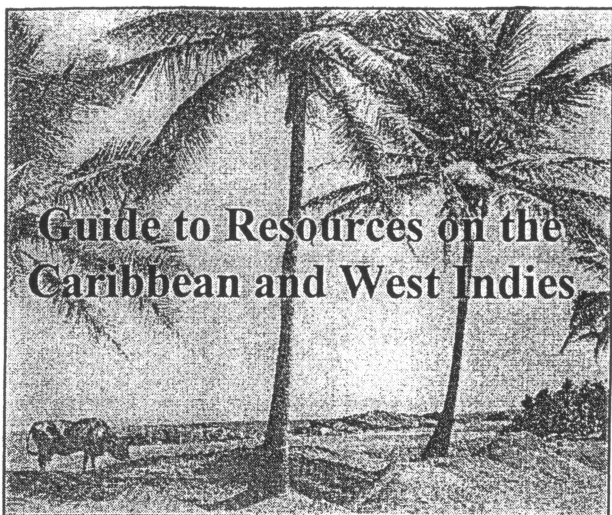


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**Guide to Resources on the
Caribbean and West Indies**

Manuscript Division

**Moorland-Spingarn Research
Center**

Prepared by Katharine Salzmänn

Guide to Resources on the Caribbean and West Indies

The resources of the Manuscript Division combine to provide important insight into the growth and development of Black families, organizations, institutions, social and religious consciousness, and the continuing struggle for civil rights and human justice in the United States and throughout the diaspora. Organized in 1974 into four departments - Manuscripts, Prints and Photographs, Oral History, and Music - the collections of primary source materials of the Manuscript Division compliment the resources of the Library Division and broaden the scope of areas for research on the Black experience.

This resource guide highlights material relating to the Caribbean within the manuscript, prints and photographs, and oral history collections of the Manuscript Division. For the purpose of compiling this guide, the Caribbean area has been defined as the region that lies between continental North and South America and consists of the islands of the West Indies and the Caribbean Sea. The following list is not exhaustive by any means. It does, however, provide an annotated overview of the available material.

Manuscript collections are listed first, followed by significant photograph collections and oral history transcripts.



Manuscript Collections

Bellegarde, Dantes
Collection [1877-1966]
Unprocessed

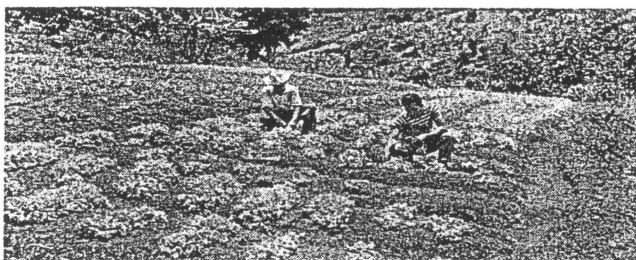
Haitian diplomat and author. The papers contain 43 photographs reflecting Bellegarde's political and social activities; a copy of Patrick Bellegarde-Smith's 1977 dissertation, "Expressions of a Culture in Crisis: Dantes Bellegarde in Haitian Social Thought;" two microfilm reels of books and articles by Bellegarde, correspondence and other documents; and three audio cassette tapes containing speeches by Bellegarde.

Burch, Charles E., 1891-1948
Papers, 1913-1948
2 linear ft.

Educator, author, school administrator born in **Bermuda**. The collection contains an essay on Burch's return to Bermuda after 25 years abroad (c.1930's). In it he reflects on the changes in his childhood town of **St. Georges** since the turn of the century (#11-3; f.50).

Caliver, Ambrose, 1894-1962
Papers, 1915-1959
22 linear ft.

Educator, administrator, civil servant. The bulk of the collection focuses on Caliver's career with the Office of Education. Included are a 1950 study of education in the **Virgin Islands** (#171-33; f.9) and a series of photographs documenting agricultural and educational projects in **Puerto Rico** (#171-53; f.5).



Cabbage Farmers in Puerto Rico
Ambrose Caliver Papers

Clarkson, Thomas, 1760-1846

Papers, 1814-1846

1/2 linear ft.

English philanthropist, abolitionist, served as Vice-President of the Anti-Slavery Society for abolition of slavery in the **West Indies** (1823). Papers include correspondence with Thomas Fowell Buxton, Lewis Tappan, Robert Vaux, and Joseph Sturge. There are also several newspaper clippings on anti-slavery meetings from the early 1800's.

Cook, Mercer, 1903-1987

Papers, 1890-1985

8 linear ft.

Educator, politician, writer, scholar. Worked as supervisor of English teaching at the University of **Haiti**. Cook's papers include correspondence with such notables as Joseph Jeremie and René Maran.

Desdunes, Pierre-Aristide, 1828-1894

Collection, 1828-1894

1/2 linear ft.

Author and poet with familial connections to **Haiti**; related to Alicibiade Desdunes, a member of the Haitian Senate. This small collection consists of two ledgers written entirely in French. The ledger entitled, "Reflections," includes an 1885 essay, "Opinion sur les Causes des Revolution en Haiti," (Opinion on the Causes of the Revolution in Haiti) (#26-1; f.2).

Douglass, Frederick, 1817-1895

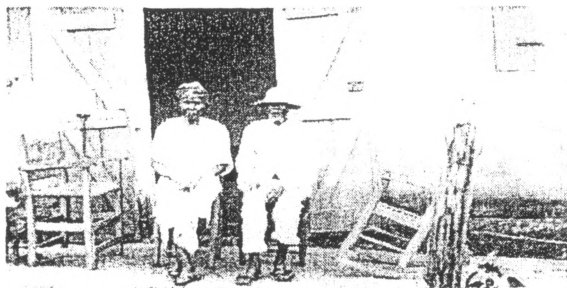
Collection, 1874-1943

6 linear ft.

Abolitionist, orator. Collection includes a certificate of Douglass's 1871 appointment as Assistant Secretary commissioned to the **Dominican Republic** (#28-1; f.8); financial material relating to the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition for which Douglass served as the **Haitian** Commissioner (#28-4; f.78); and two essays written by Douglass in support of a stable government for **Santo Domingo** (#28-6; fs.205-206).



Woman and Children in Trinidad
E. Franklin Frazier Papers



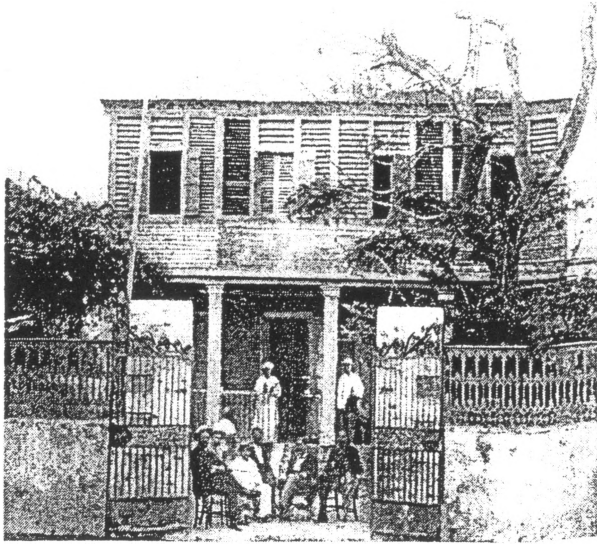
Couple in Haiti
E. Franklin Frazier Papers

Frazier, E. Franklin, 1894-1962

Papers, 1917-1972

45 1/2 linear ft.

Sociologist and Head, Department of Sociology, Howard University, author, lecturer. Papers contain the text of Caribbean Studies: A Symposium, a 1957 special edition of the Journal of Social and Economic Studies examining the strategic role the **Caribbean** has played in world history. Essays include: "Race Relations in Caribbean Society," "Present Status of the Social Sciences in the British Caribbean," "Cultural Perspectives in Caribbean Research," "African Heritage in the Caribbean," "Contemporary Social-Rural Types in the Caribbean Region," and "Man-Land Relations in the Caribbean Area" (#131-76; fs.4-5). Also included are Frazier's research notes on the **West Indies** (#131-133, fs.7-9) and **Haiti** (#131-133, f.10); a reprint of Claude McKay's "Boyhood in **Jamaica**," (#131-139; f.27); and photographs of **Haiti** and **Trinidad** (#131-142; fs.9-20).



*United States Legation, Haiti
Gregoria Fraser Goins Papers*

Goins, Gregoria Fraser, 1883-1964
Papers, 1843-1962
13 1/2 linear ft.

Musician born in **Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic**. Collection includes correspondence regarding her 1939 return to Puerto Plata (#36-1; f.35), and a memory book and diary from that same trip (#36-10; fs.106-107). Also of interest are a number of photographs of the Dominican Republic (#36-12; fs.135-138), and scrapbooks of the Dominican Republic (#36-24) and **Haiti** (#36-28).

Grimke, Archibald Henry, 1849-1930

Papers, 1822-1930

23 linear ft.

Lawyer, author, politician, and diplomat. The collection includes the official papers concerned with Grimke's service as United States Consul to **Santo Domingo** from 1894-1898. Also included are several essays, "Around the Island of Santo Domingo," (#39-19; f.365), "Life in **Haiti**," (#39-20; f.383), and "The **Dominican Republic** and her Revolutions," (#39-19; f.369). There are also photographs of Santo Domingo (#39-41; fs.904-905).

Haitian Collection, 1716-[1970]

500 Items

Unprocessed

Contains rare published and unpublished documents and manuscripts collected by Kurt Fischer spanning almost 170 years of the history of the **Republic of Haiti**. Included are decrees, military orders, proclamations, and selected issues of a few early 19th century Haitian newspapers. The earliest document is the French 1716 Rules and Statutes of the Compagnie Royal de Saint Dominique. The most notable items include correspondence of three leading Haitian rulers, L'Ouverture, Dessalines, and Christophe. This correspondence explains to some extent the activities of LeClerc and his attempt to save Saint Dominique for France and defeat L'Ouverture. There is also correspondence from other Haitian presidents from Nissage-Saget to Francois Duvalier.



Claude McKay
Alain L. Locke Papers

Locke, Alain L., 1885-1954
Papers, 1841-1954
116 linear ft.

Educator, philosopher, author, and critic. The Locke papers include notes and writings by Locke on the **Caribbean** and **Haiti**; writings by others on aspects of the Caribbean, including two plays: C.L.R. James's "Toussaint L'Ouverture," (#164-186; f.8) and Helen Webb's "Genifrede: The Daughter of L'Ouverture," (#164-188; f.27); and memorabilia and photographs from Locke's travels in **Bermuda**, **Cuba**, and **Togo**. The papers also include correspondence and other materials documenting Caribbean writers involved in the Harlem Renaissance, for example Claude McKay of **Jamaica**, René Maran of **Martinique**, and Eric Walrond of **Panama**.

Logan, Rayford W., 1897-1982
Papers, 1917-1980's
44 linear ft; 8 cubic ft.

Educator, historian, and activist. Logan's original collection (#164) and additions (#181) contain correspondence, many writings by Logan, speeches, travel material, book reviews, and subject files on **Haiti**, the **West Indies**, **Cuba**, and the **Dominican Republic**. Also included are photographs of Dantes Bellegarde, Rafeal Trujillo, and Haiti.

Mackey, Howard H., Sr., 1901-1987
Papers, 1925-1975
6 linear ft.

Architect and educator. From 1954-1957, Mackey served as an advisor to the governments of **British Guiana** and **Surinam** where he participated in programs designed to teach teams of local draftsmen architectural and planning techniques (#172-5 to 7). He also served on the preparatory committee for the 1956 Conference on Town and Country Development Planning in **Trinidad** (#172-7; fs.5-14). Both efforts are well documented in this collection.

Matzeliger, Jan Earnest, 1852-1889
Collection
1/2 linear ft.

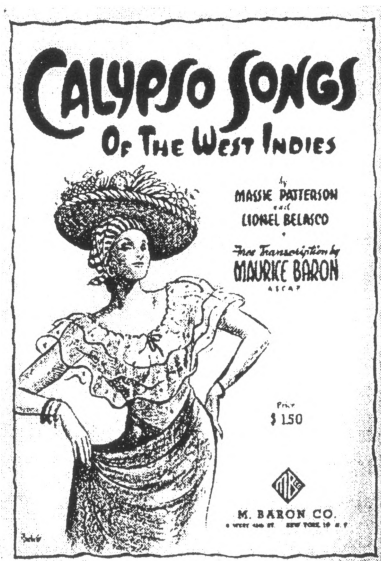
Inventor born in **Paramaribo, Surinam (Dutch Guiana)**. Correspondence includes information on Matzeliger's parentage.

Nickerson, Camille, 1882-1982

Papers, 1914-1967

10 linear ft.

Composer, collector, and performer of music. Included in Nickerson's papers are songs from **Martinique** (#161-11; f.23 and #161-13; f.11) and the **West Indies** (#161-13; f.22).



Calypso Songs of the West Indies
Camille Nickerson Papers

Prattis, Percival Leroy, 1895-1980
Papers, 1930-1970
18 linear ft.

Editor, associate publisher of the Pittsburgh Courier. Collection includes a number of photographs of political and cultural interests in **Haiti** (#144-34; fs.15-48) used to illustrate a 1930 Pittsburgh Tribune article, "Glimpses of Haiti," (#144-21; f.4). Also of interest are transcribed letters regarding the imprisonment and death of Toussaint L'Ouverture (#144-23; f.26).

Rapier Family
Papers, 1836-1883
2 linear ft.

The Rapier family papers include correspondence from John H. Rapier, Jr. documenting his travels in **Haiti** and **Jamaica** in the 1860's (#384-1; fs.39, 61-74, 77). Also included are two manuscripts: "Mulattoes in Haiti" (#84-2; f.99) and "Societe Haitienne." (#84-2; f.100).

Reynolds, Anita Thompson Dickenson,

1901-1980

Collection, 1850-1980

9 linear ft.

Psychologist, art instructor, actress, model, dancer. Ms. Reynolds lived in **St. Croix, Virgin Islands** from the 1950's to her death in 1980. Reynolds's personal papers include her diaries from 1959-1975 and photographs of St. Croix.

Spingarn, Arthur B., 1878-1971

Papers, 1914-1971

13 1/2 linear ft.

Lawyer, scholar, former president of the N.A.A.C.P. Included in Spingarn's papers are material documenting his 1923 trip to **Haiti** (#94-1; fs.6-9); a 1945 article written by Spingarn, "Negro Achievements in Africa, **Caribbean**, and Colonial Areas," (#94-11; f.228); and extensive lists of authors, organized by nationality (#94-24).

Stewart-Flippin Family

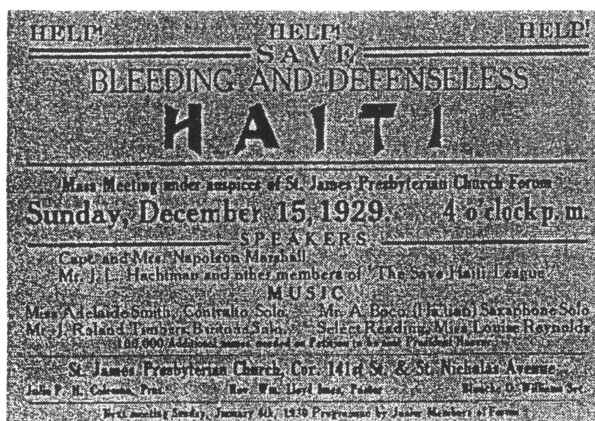
Papers, 1852-1974

20 linear ft.

Included are papers of Thomas McCants Stewart (#97-1; fs.3-17) who resided in **St. Thomas, Virgin Islands**, and served as a delegate to the United States. There are no direct references to the Caribbean, but this information may be useful to researchers studying the U.S./Caribbean exchange.

Tappan, Lewis, 1788-1873
Collection (1847-1860)
1 1/2 linear ft.

Abolitionist. The bulk of the collection consists of scrapbooks of newspaper clippings on slavery and the anti-slavery movement. Included is a manuscript on the **British West Indies Colonies**. The manuscript is a treatise on slavery, the meaning of freedom, and an assessment of the conditions in the British West Indies.



*Flyer from the Save Haiti League
Washington Conservatory of Music Collection*

Washington Conservatory of Music
Records, 1887-1966
26 linear ft.

Papers of the founder, Harriett Gibbs Marshall (1869-1941) document her book, The Story of Haiti. Included are contracts, notes, and reviews (#112-2; fs.67-77). Also included in the collection are a series of correspondence relating to Haiti (#112-2; fs.78-84); correspondence, business, financial, and membership records of the Save Haiti League (#112-2; fs.86-91); and correspondence and newspaper clippings documenting the Jean Joseph Industrial School (#112-2; fs.92-94).



*Letter Carrier, Barbados Photo Album
Prints and Photographs Division*

Prints and Photographs Collections

Barbados

Photo Album

Circa 1880 through 1900

20 Albumen Prints

Known photographers include Siza Photo and Poyer Brothers studios. Includes photographs of business and industry, architecture, individuals and groups, buildings, and views of countryside. Highlights include images of domestic workers and other occupational portraits, market scenes, and ports. Black & white. Most images identified. Various sizes.

Blacks in the World: Africa, West Indies, and Latin America

Subject File

Circa 1940s and 1950s

Various artists and photographers. Includes photographs, photographic placemats, postcards, art reproductions, tear sheets, and snapshots. The bulk of the images are of Haiti. Other headings are Martinique, Barbados, Bahamas, and the Antilles. Subjects include: medicine, travel, military, social events, rural and city views, industry, and politics. Color / Black & white. Some identified. Various sizes.

Haiti

Oversized Photographs

1949

29 Plates

Various artists and photographers. Includes plates from the original portfolio of the *Exposition Internationale, 1949-1950*, published for the bicentennial in 1949. Subjects include architecture, industry, and history. Color / Black & white. Some identified. Various sizes, most 18x24.



*Family, Jamaica Photo Album
Prints and Photographs Division*

Jamaica
Photo Album
Circa 1880-1900
52 Photographs

Photographer(s) unidentified. Includes photographs of business and industry, people at home and at work, buildings, and views of countryside. Highlights include images of city and rural dwellings and vegetation. Black & white. Some images identified. Various sizes, most 8x10.

Pan American Union
Circa 1940s
35 Photographs

Photographer unknown. Includes photographs of dancing, musical instruments and musicians, and portraits. Highlights include images of the Quichimba Drum Dance and the Round Drum Dance. Black & white. All images are identified and numbered 1 through 40, with some missing. Mounted, 11x14.

Oral Histories

Lynch, Lincoln (n.d.)

Ralph J. Bunche Oral History Collection

February, 1970; 16 pp.

Former associate national director, Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Recalls early life in **Jamaica** and immigration to the U.S. where he worked as supporter of W.E.B. DuBois.

Weaver, Rosetta (n.d.)

Ralph J. Bunche Oral History Collection

February, 1970; 39 pp.

President, Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC), Bernard M. Baruch College. Shares her experiences as a Black American living and working in **Cuba** and Ghana.

Williams, Robert F. (n.d.)

Ralph Bunche Civil Rights Documentation Project

July, 1970; 223 pp.

Former Director of the Monroe (North Carolina) N.A.A.C.P., former president, Republic of New Africa. One of the subjects Williams discusses in this extensive interview is his experiences and activities from his 5 years in exile in **Cuba**. He discusses the political, racial, and economic climate in Cuba; focuses on the events surrounding Cuban revolutionary hero, Che Guevara's disappearance; and explains why and how he left Cuba.



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