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## FAUSET, Crystal Bird

MSRC Staff

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CRYSTAL BIRD FAUSET PAPERS  
Collection 33-1 to 33-7

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January 1981  
[updated October 1992]

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION

## Scope Note

The Crystal Bird Fauset papers were donated to Howard University by Mrs. Sophia Yarnell Jacobs, and Mrs. A. Mercer Daniels in 1966. Mrs. Jacobs was a close associate of Mrs. Fauset. Mrs. Daniels was Mrs. Fauset's sister. The papers document some of Mrs. Fauset's activities from 1944 - 1959, with the most documentation being provided for the years 1946-1950.

The papers are approximately 3 linear feet in size. Crystal Bird Fauset was an educator, social worker, and an activist in local and national politics. In 1938 she became the first Black woman to be elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. After 1944 she worked as a volunteer with the United Nations Council of Philadelphia. Scrapbooks in this collection document her activities with this council.

Photographs which indicate her participation in a Ghanaian independence celebration (1959?); a few items of correspondence, and a typed scripted autobiographical sketch are also included within this collection. Noteworthy is Scrapbook #4 which documents Mrs. Fauset's 1950 trip to India and Pakistan. The photographs in this book show Mrs. Fauset in the company of leading Indian dignitaries, including Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and the former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

## Biographical Data

1893, June 11	Born in Princess Anne, Maryland
1931	Married Arthur Huff Fauset
1933-1935	Acted as the Executive Secretary of the Institute of Race Relations, Swarthmore College
1938	First Black woman elected to the House of Representatives in Pennsylvania
1939	Resigned post in the State Legislature Appointed Assistant State Director of Education and Recreation Program, Work Program Administration  Cited by Pennsylvania Governor, George H. Earle, as recipient of Meritorious Service Medal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
1940	Appointed Director of the Colored Women's Division of the Democratic National Committee for the re-election of Franklin Roosevelt
1941	Appointed Special Assistant to Eloise Davison, Assistant Director in charge of women's activities in the Office of Civilian Defense
1950	Trip to India & Pakistan
1955	Awarded the Meritorious Service Medal of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor John S. Fine for her leadership in the American – Korean Foundation
1965, March 28	Died in Philadelphia.

Sources of biographical data: Moorland-Spingarn Vertical File.

## Series Description

### **Series A Scrapbooks**

Items 33-1 to Items 33-4 This series contains 4 scrapbooks which document some of Mrs. Fauset's activities while working with the United Nations Council of Philadelphia. Scrapbook No. 4 contains clippings, photographs, invitations and mementoes of a trip taken by Mrs. Fauset in 1950 to India and Pakistan. Mrs. Fauset is pictured with a number of Indian dignitaries including Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and former Prime Minister Nehru. Scrapbooks 1, 2, and 3 contain newsclippings, and some photographs of projects Mrs. Fauset worked on for the U.N. Council, among them: The Oak Ridge - Philadelphia project, 1946, International Assembly of Women, 1946, The Panel of Americans, 1947.

### **Series B Autobiographical Sketch**

Box 33-5 This typescript provides some details on Mrs. Fauset's activities from November 1944 thru June 1956.

### **Series C Correspondence**

Box 33-5 This series contains two items of personal correspondence directed to Mrs. Fauset. One of the two items was written by A. Phillip Randolph. Other items in this series include letters of condolences to Mrs. A. Mercer Daniels on the death of her sister Crystal Bird Fauset.

### **Series D Photographs**

Box 33-5 This series is primarily comprised of photographs of a Ghanaian Independence celebration (probably the 2nd annual celebration 1959). Mrs. Fauset is the subject of many of the photographs. Other guests at this celebration pictured with Mrs. Fauset include former U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, and baseball great Jackie Robinson.

### **Series E Certificates**

Items 33-6 to Items 33-7 This series contains an April 1965 resolution presented by the Philadelphia City Council to Mrs. A. Mercer Daniels in commemoration of the death of Mrs. Fauset, her sister. The series also includes a January 1939 certificate from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, stating Mrs. Fauset's terms of office as a representative.

## Container List

- Series A**  
**Scrapbooks**
- Item 33-1 The Oak Ridge Project - Philadelphia March, 1946
- Item 33-2 Visit to Philadelphia – October 26-29, 1946, by 50 delegates of The International Assembly of Women
- Item 33-3 The Panel of Americans - February, 1947
- Item 33-4 Trip to India and Pakistan - January - February, 1950 (SCRAPBOOKS ARE FRAGILE. USE XEROX COPIES ONLY)
- Series B**  
**Autobiographical Sketch**
- Box Folder  
33-5 1 Autobiographical - type-script
- Series C**  
**Correspondence**
- 2 Personal correspondence  
3 Letters of condolence
- Series D**  
**Photographs**
- 4 Portrait - Crystal Bird Fauset  
5 Ghanaian reception celebrating independence  
6 Ghanaian reception celebrating independence  
7 Ghanaian reception celebrating independence  
8 Ghanaian reception celebrating independence  
9 Ghanaian reception celebrating independence
- Series E**  
**Certificates**
- Item 33-6 Resolution relative to the death of Crystal Bird Fauset. Philadelphia City Council, April 1965 (individually wrapped)
- Item 33-7 Certificate from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, stating Mrs. Fauset's terms of office as a representative, 3 January 1939 (individually wrapped)