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Edward Strong Papers

167-1 to 167-8

Prepared by:  
Helen Rutt  
June 1994

## SCOPE NOTE

The papers of Edward E. Strong (1914-1957), youth organizer, span the period from 1924 to 1956 and measure approximately three linear feet. The bulk of the papers covers the period from 1937 to 1956. Throughout most of his career, Strong held offices in such organizations as the Southern Negro Youth Congress (S.N.Y.C.), the Communist Party, and the National Negro Congress. This collection documents Strong's involvement with these and other groups. It also consists of some family papers, most of which document Augusta Jackson Strong's involvement in S.N.Y.C.

In 1986 Denise Strong Janha donated the papers to Moorland- Spingarn. In 1989 Phillis Strong McKenzie added to the collection.

## Biographical Data

### Edward E. Strong

- 1914 July 28 Born in Texarkana, Texas to Julia Oglesby and Edward E. Strong
- 1936 Received A.B. from Central College, Chicago, Illinois
- 1936 Studied political science at Howard University
- 1936 Elected head of the youth division of the National Negro Congress (NNC)
- 1937 Elected Executive Secretary of the newly formed Southern Negro Youth Congress
- 1938 Married Augusta Jackson; Three daughters, Denise, Phillis, and Alison
- 1941-1945 Served in the U.S. Army
- 1945 Resumed work with NNC as Executive Secretary
- 1948 Became Organizational Secretary of the National Negro Congress
- 1949 Accepted position as Chairman of the Communist Party of Eastern Pennsylvania
- 1957 April 9 Died of cancer in New York

Source: Edward E. Strong Papers, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Box 167-2, Writings about Edward Strong  
Telephone interview with Denise Strong Janha. 20 June 1994.

## Series Description

- Series A Personal and Family Papers**  
Box 167-1 Contains correspondence and writings by Augusta Jackson Strong, Edward Strong's wife.
- Series B Correspondence**  
Box 167-1 Consists of letters and telegrams emanating from Strong's tenure in the S.N.Y.C., mostly between Strong and other S.N.Y.C. officials. See Series A, Personal and Family Papers for Augusta Strong and Earline Balton's correspondence; See Series E, Southern Negro Youth Congress, for other S.N.Y.C. officers' correspondence.
- Series C Writings by Edward E. Strong**  
Box 167-1 to Box 167-2 Includes open letters, newspapers and journal articles, reports and notes, concerning causes such as communism, war, and labor.
- Series D Writings about Edward E. Strong**  
Box 167-2 Contains programs and articles about his participation in conferences and other events.
- Series E Southern Negro Youth Congress**  
Box 167-2 to Box 167-4 Includes correspondence of S.N.Y.C. officials, conference and board meeting materials, resolutions, and printed matter. Also contains documentation compiled about blacks in Alabama for Gunnar Myrdal's An American Dilemma. See Series I, Photographs, for images of S.N.Y.C. events; See Series J, Oversize, for other S.N.Y.C. printed matter.
- Series F Communist Party USA**  
Box 167-4 to Box 167-5 Consists of reports, resolutions, study discussion guides, and printed matter from both the national and state parties.
- Series G Subject files/organizations**  
Box 167-5 to Box 167-7 Contains materials from Organizations with which Strong was associated. Among these are the N.A.A.C.P., National Negro Congress, and several labor groups.

## Series Description

- Series H**      **Writings by Others**  
Box 167-7      Consists of unpublished writings by Strong's associates, including Esther V. Cooper and James E. Jackson.
- Series I**      **Photographs**  
Box 167-7      Images document S.N.Y.C. and other youth group activities.
- Series J**      **Oversize**  
Box 167-8      Cavalcade and S.N.Y.C. broadsides.

## Container List

### **Series A      Personal and Family Papers**

- Box                      Folder  
167-1                    1 Earline Balton - correspondence  
                              2 Augusta Strong - sketch  
                              3 Augusta Strong - correspondence  
                              4 Writings by August Jackson Strong  
                              5 Writings by August Jackson Strong – book reviews  
                              6 Programs (concert, theatre, politics)

### **Series B      Correspondence**

- 7 B-C  
8 D-H  
9 Burnham, Louis  
10 J-M  
11 O-W, recipient unknown  
12 Yergan, Max 1937-1938  
13 Yergan, Max 1939  
14 Yergan, Max 1940-1941

### **Series C      Writings by Edward E. Strong**

- 15 "Annual Report of Edward Strong, National Secretary" Presented at Second All-Southern Negro Youth Conference, Chattanooga, TN April 1938  
16 "The Daily Worker and the Middle East Crisis." Daily Worker, 27 Nov. 1956, 4-5. [includes readers' responses]  
17 "The Detroit Insurrection: An Attack Upon the War Effort and the Negro People." Congress Vue 1(Aug. 1943): 1,6.  
18 "The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual NAACP Conference." [co-author with William Taylor]  
19 "The Influence of the Socialist and Communist Parties on the American Negro."  
20 Letter to Congressman Martin Dies. In S.N.Y.C. Press release 31 Oct. 1939.  
21 Letter to the Platform Committee of the Republican Party. In S.N.Y.C. Press release 19 June 1940.  
22 "Liberty and Political Obligation in the Soviet Union."  
23 "A Message from the Executive Secretary." In souvenir program of the Fourth All-Southern Negro Youth Conference April 1940.  
24 "The Negro and the Fight for Victory." Address delivered at the Eastern Seaboard Conference on the Problems of the War and the Negro People 10 April 1943.  
25 "Negro-Labor Unity for Victory in the 48 Elections."  
26 "The Negro People and the 1944 Elections." Congress Vue 1(Aug. 1943): 7-8.

Container List

- Series C**      **Writings by Edward E. Strong**  
Box            Folder  
167-1        27 "Negro Youth and the Fight for Freedom and Opportunity." Speech delivered  
                 to the Second National Negro Congress Oct. 1937  
                 28 "Negro Youth and the War." For Clarity 1942.  
                 29 "New Features in [the] Civil Rights Struggle of the Negro People."  
                 30 "On the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the N.A.A.C.P." Political Affairs (Feb.  
                 1950): 23-32.  
                 31 "The Soviet Union - A Friend of the Oppressed." Congress View 1(Nov.  
                 1943): 1,8.  
                 32 re: Racial cultural conflicts
- 167-2        1 "Report on the Question of War and the Negro People." Delivered to a  
                 National Board Meeting of the National Negro Congress Feb. 1943.  
                 2 "The Till Case and the Negro Liberation Movement." Political Affairs (Dec.  
                 1955): 35-51.  
                 3 "To the Editor of the Journal and Guide." [response to editorial]  
                 4 "Trends Towards Economic Crisis."  
                 5 "What's New in the Fight for Rights?" The Worker. Feb. 13, 1949, 6.  
                 6 Notes  
                 7 Notes
- Series D**      **Writings about Edward E. Strong**  
                 Programs on which Strong's name appears  
                 8 Feb. 1937  
                 9 Oct. 1937  
                 10 1938-1940  
                 11 1946
- 12 Press releases on which Strong's name appears  
                 13 Letterhead on which Strong's name appears  
                 14 Biographical sketch, articles about Strong  
                 15 Brochure about the Edward E. Strong Memorial Educational Trust Fund
- Series E**      **Southern Negro Youth Congress**  
                 16 Notes  
                 17 Correspondence blank letterhead, no date, 1937-1938  
                 18 Correspondence 1939-1941  
                 19 Correspondence 1942, Feb. - July 1946  
                 20 Correspondence Aug. 1946-April 1948, Nov. 1949, 1955



## Container List

### **Series E      Southern Negro Youth Congress**

Box            Folder  
167-2        21 Outline  
              22 Research materials  
              23 Research materials  
              24 Research materials  
              25 Research materials  
              26 Research materials  
              27 Research materials  
              28 Research materials

#### All-Southern Negro Youth Conferences

167-3        29 Richmond 1937  
              1 Birmingham 1939  
              2 New Orleans 1940  
              3 Tuskegee 1942  
              4 Atlanta 1944  
              5 Columbia, SC 1946  
              6 Resolutions  
              7 Draft Constitution  
              8 Histories  
              9 Speeches of Edward Weaver  
             10 American Youth Delegation to Cuba 1941  
             11 National Council Meetings 1939-1944  
             12 Executive Board meeting March 1946  
             13 Executive Board meeting Dec. 1946  
             14 Executive Board meeting Jan. 1948  
             15 Greater Birmingham Youth Conference 1943  
             16 Southern Youth Legislature 1948  
             17 Johnny Craft Case 1946  
             18 Cavalcade - supporting material  
             19 Cavalcade - Oct. and Nov. 1941 issues  
             20 Press releases  
             21 Press releases and statements  
             22 Petitions, applications, proposals  
             23 Fliers, notices  
             24 Financial papers  
             25 Programs  
             26 News bulletins 1939-1948  
             27 "Memorandum on the Constitutionality of Poll Taxes" 1940

## Container List

- Series E      Southern Negro Youth Congress**  
Box            Folder  
167-4        1 "Prospectus of the Association of Young Writers & Artists."  
              2 Pledge cards, membership drives  
              3 Booklets  
              4 Manuals  
              5 Clippings  
              6 Clippings  
              7 Clippings  
              8 Clippings
- Series F      Communist Party USA**  
              9 Reports  
             10 Reports  
             11 Reports  
             12 Reports  
             13 Reports, resolutions concerning plans in the South  
             14 Reports, resolutions concerning plans in the South  
             15 The Lost and Found Sheep Educational Club  
             16 Club discussion guides, questions  
             17 Discussion article  
             18 Study outline - "History of the American Negro People 1619-1918."  
             19 Book outline, notes  
             20 Reprints and summary of articles from Political Affairs  
             21 Trial of the 12 Communists in New York  
             22 Fliers, notices
- Series G      Subject files/organizations**  
                    State Parties  
167-5        1 Alabama  
              2 Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware  
              3 Florida  
              4 Florida - clippings and news accounts  
              5 New York  
              6 Texas  
              7 Virginia - "The Path to Victory in Virginia"  
              8 Virginia - leaflets, newsletters  
              9 Alabama Council on Human Relations  
             10 American Friends Service Committee, Inc.  
             11 American Youth Congress  
             12 Bar (legal) committees  
             13 Census data (Southern U.S.) and demographic studies

Container List

<b>Series G</b>	<b>Subject files/organizations</b>
	<u>State Parties</u>
Box	Folder
167-5	14 <u>Color Line</u>
	15 Committee to Free the Trenton Six
	16 Council on African Affairs
	17 Cuba
	18 Cuba - Agriculture
	19 Detroit Youth Council
	20 Du Bois, W.E.B.
	21 Illinois-Midwest Negro People's Assembly to Draft Roosevelt
	22 Independent Citizen's Committee to Elect Ada B. Jackson
	23 International Labor Defense
	24 Ku Klux Klan
	25 March on Washington
	26 Montgomery Improvement Association
167-6	1 Monthly journal - notes, prospectus
	<u>N.A.A.C.P.</u>
	2 Tennessee State Conference 1955
	3 Copies of correspondence
	4 Reports, resolutions, press releases
	5 Communiques between local and national offices
	6 38 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 1947
	7 39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 1948
	8 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference 1949
	9 41 <sup>st</sup> Annual Conference 1950
	10 Handbooks
	11 Brochures
	12 National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership
	13 National Committee to Free the Ingram Family
	14 National Conference of Negro Youth
	15 National Council of Negro Women
	16 The National Movement for Establishment of a 49 <sup>th</sup> State
	<u>National Negro Congress</u>
	17 Correspondence
	18 Meetings, constitution, resolutions, reports, work sheets
	19 Manual of organization, constitution
	20 Petitions
	21 Fliers, brochures
	22 Informational booklets

## Container List

### **Series G**      **Subject files/organizations**

#### State Parties

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| Box   | Folder  |
| 167-6 | 23 Press releases<br>24 <u>Congress View</u> Aug. 1943-Aug. 1944  |
| 167-7 | 1 <u>Congress View</u> Sept. 1944-March 1946<br>2 National Publication Society of America<br>3 Negro Trade Unionists Committee<br>4 Political campaigns<br>5 Progressive Party<br>6 Robeson, Paul<br>7 Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.<br>8 Southern Conference for Human Welfare<br>9 Student Conference on Negro Student Problems<br>10 Tennessee Valley<br>11 Textiles<br>12 Textiles<br>13 Till, Emmett case<br>14 Trade Unions<br>15 United Negro and Allied Veterans of America<br>16 Winston, Henry |

### **Series H**      **Writings by Others**

- 17 Drake, St. Clair. "Negro Veteran and the Church"
- 18 Jackson, Esther Cooper. "Historic London Conference Unites Youth of World."
- 19 Jackson, James E. "Negro Youth! Into the Armed Forces by the Tens of Thousands."
- 20 Wright, Ann and Harriet Lee. re: Economic status of the Negro working woman.
- 21 Author unknown. "A Brief History of the Organizing Struggles of the Workers in the R.J. Reynolds Plants in Winston Salem, N.C. Since 1942."
- 22 -----."Democracy is Indivisible."
- 23 -----. "Historical Aspects of the Struggle for Negro Freedom in N.J."
- 24-----. "Legislative Proposal for Amendments and Revision of Railway Labor Act."
- 25 -----. "My Past Experiences in Southern Struggles." (folder 1 of 2)
- 26 -----. "My Past Experiences in Southern Struggles." (folder 2 of 2)
- 27-----. "Sam Hall."
- 28 Poetry

## Container List

### **Series I**

#### **Photographs**

Box

Folder

167-7

29 S.N.Y.C. people and events

30 Second World Youth Congress in Poughkeepsie, NY 1938

31 Cuba 1941

32 Share croppers in East Texas 1955

33 Schools in Tatum District

34 Patel, Rajni; Lo Tsei

35 Unidentified groups

### **Series J**

#### **Oversize**

167-8

Cavalcade April 1941

May 1941

June 1941

May 1942 [photocopy]

S.N.Y.C. broadside - National Anti-Poll Tax Week Proclamation May 1941

S.N.Y.C. broadside - Fourth of July Declaration for Negro Youth July 1942

Peekskill brochure issued by Progressive Party [photocopy]