

Dan Georgakas Papers
2.75 Linear feet (6 MB)
1958-1980, bulk 1967-1974

Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Finding aid written by Walter P. Reuther Library staff. Edited by Alexandra A. A. Orchard on April 9, 2015.

Accession

Number: UP001041

Creator: Dan Georgakas

Acquisition: The papers of Dan Georgakas were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs by Mr. Georgakas in April of 1981 and were opened for research in April of 1982.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Access: Papers are open for research.

Use: Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library *Rules for Use of Archival Materials*. **Restrictions: Researchers may encounter records of a sensitive nature – personnel files, case records and those involving investigations, legal, and other private matters. Privacy laws and restrictions imposed by the Library prohibit the use of names and other personal information, which might identify an individual, except with written permission from the Director and/or the donor.**

Notes: Citation style: "Dan Georgakas Papers," Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

Related

Material: Reuther Library Collections: Detroit Revolutionary Movements Records (Part 2 Series IV, Publications)

PLEASE NOTE: Material in this collection has been arranged by series ONLY. Folders are not arranged within each series – we have provided an inventory based on their original order. Subjects may be dispersed through several boxes within any given series.

Abstract

Dan Georgakas was born in Detroit in 1938 and earned a B. A. in history from Wayne State University in 1959 and an M. A. in labor history from the University of Michigan in 1961. He later was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for study in Greece in 1962.

He taught English and social studies in Detroit secondary schools from 1959 until 1964 and he also taught at the Overseas School of Rome, Italy. In 1972 he joined the staff of LaGuardia Community College in New York, where he lectures in English and history.

Georgakas has published poetry, articles, historical pamphlets and reviews in addition to his non-fiction books on a broad range of subjects, including American Indians, longevity, films, the IWW, the Greek diaspora and black revolutionaries. Among his works are: *The Broken Hoop*, *Red Shadows*, *The Methuselah Factors*, *Detroit*, *I Do Mind Dying*, and *Through Another Lens*.

The papers in this collection were assembled during his research for *Detroit, I Do Mind Dying: A Study in Urban Revolution*, which he wrote with Marvin Surkin. These papers document the activities of black radical groups in Detroit in the late 1960's and early 1970's and are closely related to those in the Detroit Revolutionary Movements Collection.

Important Subjects:

Black Economic Development Conference
Black Star Productions
Black Workers Congress
Cockrel, Kenneth
1967 Detroit Riot
Forman, James
Johnson, James
League of Revolutionary Black Workers
Motor City Labor League
Police Harassment & Brutality
Plant Safety: Eldon Ave (Chrysler) plant
Quality of Worklife: Black Workers
Radical Movements: Detroit
Radical Movements: Political Education
Ravitz, Justin
Watson, John
Wildcat Strikes: Chrysler Corporation

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 2 series.

Folders in each series are simply listed by their location within each box. They are not arranged, so any given subject may be dispersed throughout several boxes within each series.

Series I: Subject Files, 1964-1980 (Boxes 1-5)

Reports and publications, correspondence, transcripts of interviews and notes which document the writing of *Detroit, I Do Mind Dying*. This series includes general subjects as well as names of people and groups.

Series II: Publications, 1958-1980 (Boxes 5-6)

General literary and political publications. Included in this series are examples of poetry written by Detroit area poets.

Abbreviations

BEDC - Black Economic Development Conference
BSP - Black Star Productions
BWC - Black Workers Congress
CCC - Control, Conflict, Change
DARE - Detroit Alliance for a Rational Economy
DPD - Detroit Police Department
DRUM - Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement
FGU - From the Ground Up
IRCO - Interregligious Foundation for Community Organization, Inc.
LRBW - League of Revloutionary Black Workers
MCLL - Motor Citv Labor League
PASCC - Parents and Students for Community Control
STRESS- Stop the Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets
UBW - United Black Workers (Ford Motor Plant, Mahwah, N.J.)

Series I
Subject Files, 1964-1980
Boxes 1-5

Reports and publications, correspondence, transcripts of interviews and notes which document the writing of *Detroit, I Do Mind Dying*. Some of the newspaper clippings in the series postdate the work's publication in 1975. For the most part, the correspondence is general; in particular, the files of Black Star Productions include the original correspondence of the promotion and rental of the film "Finally Got the News," and, to a lesser extent, "Al Fatah, Palestinians." Some of the documents are original copies collected by Georgakas while researching his book. The series arrangement is alphabetical and includes general subjects as well as key political and radical groups and important people.

Box 1

1. Baker, General, c. 1964-1965
2. ; Election Campaign, 9th District State Rep., 1976
3. BEDC; April 1969 Conf.; notes and keynote speech, 1969
4. ; "The Black Manifesto,": 1969
5. ; Protestant and Catholic Church data, c. 1969
6. ; Steering and Executive Committees, 1969-1971
7. ; IFCO, c. 1970-1971
- 8-10. BSP; correspondence, 1970-1971, n.d.
- 11 ; promotional material, 1971
12. ; script notes for Finally Got the News(Ttalian version), c. 1971
13. ; Gessner letter to Georgakas on Finallv Got the News, 1972
14. ; miscellaneous notes and fliers, c. 1970-1971
15. ; newspaper clippings, c. 1970-1971
16. Black Workers; publications, c. 1970-1973
17. BWC; Organizing, 1971, n.d.
18. ; John Watson, 1971
19. ; Interview with Mike Hamlin, c. 1972
20. ; Notes of Cockrel Charges, c. 1973
21. ; minutes, 1971
22. ; newspaper clippings and fliers, c. 1971
23. ; reports, 1979-1972
24. ; 1973 paper on BWC, Apr 1973

Box 2

1. Boggs, James; Writings of James and Grace Lee Boggs, 1970-1975
2. ; Advocators Publications, c. 1970-1975
3. Chrysler Corp.; Wildcat Summer 1973; newspaper clippings, 1973
4. ; Dodge Truck Wildcat; newspaper clippings, Jun 1974
5. Cockrel, Kenneth; Disbarment, 1968
6. ; Comments on James Johnson and LRBW, n.d.
7. ; articles and newspaper clippings, 1969-1979
8. CCC: catalog, and fliers, 1971
9. ; Planning Committee; position paper, Feb 1972

CCC Discussions

10. "White Niggers of America," 9 Nov 1971
11. "Slavery from Sundown to Sunup," 8 Feb 1972
12. "Labor's Untold Story," 11 Apr 1971

13. "The Enemy," 9 May 1972
14. "Dialectics of Decentralization," 12 Dec 1972
15. "World in Struggle," 9 Jan 1973
16. "The Health Empire," 13 Feb 1973
17. "The Function of Public Education Industry." 6 Mar 1973
18. "Workers' Testimony," 3 Apr 1973
19. "Workers and Struggles in the 1930's," 1 May 1973

(Additional CCC Discussions can be found in the Detroit Revolutionary Movements Collection, Box 11)

20. CCC; COFFEE BREAK, "Women at Work," c. 1973
21. DARE; "City Life in the 80's" Conference, 29 Sep 1979
22. ; fliers, c. 1979
23. Detroit ArabianCommunity; Protests Against Israeli Aid, 1973
24. ; Abdeen Jabara, 1974
25. ; newspaper clippings, c. 1973-1974
- 26-28. Detroit: General Info.; newspaper clippings, 1973-1980
29. ; pamphlets and reports c. 1973-1980

Box 3

1. DPD; articles and reports, 1964-1969
2. ; newspaper clippings, 1973-1976
3. ; miscellaneous notes and data, c. 1967-1971
4. DPD: STRESS; reports, 1971
5. ; pamphlets and fliers, 1973
6. ; newspaper clippings, c. 1973
7. Detroit: 1967 Riot; psychological studies cf Paul Lowinger, et al., 1968-1970
8. Dowdell, Glanton, 1971
9. DRUM: pamphlets and newspaper clippings, 1969-1970
10. Economic Data, c. 1970-1975
11. Eldon Ave. Plant; reports on safety, 1969-1970
12. ; pamphlets and fliers, c, 1969-1970
13. ; Discharge Case, 3 Nov 1971
14. ; James Johnson, 1970
15. ; Jordan Sims, c. 1970-1973
16. ; Deaths of Gary Thompason & Mamie Williams, 1970
17. ; John Taylor Statement, 1972
18. ; Interview with Sims, Barksdale, and Cooke, 1972
19. FBI; Surveillance Material, 1969-1971
20. FGU; publications, 1971-1973
21. ; statistical data, c. 1970-1971

Box 4

1. Forman, James; BEDC Conf., 1960
2. ; BEDC Conf. - "Black Manifesto"; drafts
3. ; Writings of, c. 1968-1971
4. ; The Political Thought of James Forman, 1970
5. ; Expulsion from BWC; statement, 1973
6. Georgakas and Surkin; authors' notes and correspondence, c. 1973-77
7. Glaberman, Martin; Writings on Black Workers, 1972-1973
8. LRBW; Constitution, c. 1969
9. ; correspondence, 1971

10. ; miscellaneous reports and minutes, 1971, n.d.
11. ; Split of League, 1971
12. ; pamphlets and newspaper clippings, 1969-1971, 1974
13. MCLL; Membership Slit, Sep 1972
14. ; "The Wheel Turns," Oct 1972
15. ; "The Political Line of the Motor City Labor League," Apr 1974
16. ; "From the Masses to the Masses," May 1974
17. ; newspaper clippings, c. 1974
18. New Bethel Case, 1969
19. PASC; structure and background data, c. 1970
20. ; progress report, Jun-Dec 1970
21. Ravitz, Justin C.; Recorder's Ct. Judge Election, 1972
22. ; Hayward Brown Case, 1973
23. ; memos and notes, 1972-1974
24. ; newspaper clippings, 1972-19701

Box 5

1. UAW; General Info.; pamphlets and newspaper clippings, 1970-1980
2. UBW; reports and publications, 1969-1974
3. Watson, John; "To the Point of Production"; interview reprint, c. 1969
4. ; Interview with Georgakas, Sep 1970
5. ; "Perspective: A Summary Discussion" (CCC), 8 Jan 1971
6. ; Black and Third World Workers, c. 1971
7. ; articles on, c. 1968-1971
8. ; notes and writing fragments, n.d.
9. Young, Coleman; newspaper clippings, 1972-19/75
10. ; Election Campaign, 1973

Series II
Publications, 1958-1980
Boxes 5-6

General literary and political publications. The political books and pamphlets were for the most part published by radical organizations such as the Communist League and publishers such as Red and Black Press, Detroit. Included are two volumes of the journal *Serendipity*, 1958. Georgakas was the managing editor of this Detroit-based literary journal. Also included in this series are examples of poetry written by Detroit area poets. In the series, poetry and material on music and art is placed first followed by books and pamphlets.

Box 5

11. Music and art, c. 1972-1975
12. Poetry, 1967, 1974
13. Poetry; Ron Brasch, n.d. (also *Detroit Discovery*, c. 1973)
- 14-15. ; Brian P. Flanigan, n.d.
16. ; Harvey Gotliffe, 1973, n.d.
17. ; Jim Gustafson, n.d.
18. ; Barbara L. Hunter, 1972, n.d.
19. ; Richard Marsh, 1971, 1975
20. Sinclair, John, 1973, n.d.
21. Black Graphics International, 1975-1976

Box 6

Barrot, Jean and Martin, Francois. *Eclipse and Re-Emergence of the Communist Movement*. Detroit: Black & Red, 1974.

Brinton, Maurice. *The Irrational in Politics*. Detroit: Red & Black, 1975.

Camatte, Jacques. *The Wandering of Humanity*. Detroit: Red & Black, 1975.

Documents - Second Party Congress of the Communist Labor Party of the United States of North America. Chicago: Workers Press, 1975.

Lip and the Self-Managed Counter Revolution. Detroit: Red & Black, 1975.

McCombs, Judith. *Sisters and Other Selves*. Detroit: The Glass Bell Press, 1975

Perlman, Fredy. *The Incoherence of the Intellectual: C. Wright Mills' Struggle to United Knowledge and Action*. Detroit: Black & Red, 1970

Perlman, Fredy. *Plunder*. New York, June, 1962

Serendipity 1 (Spring 1958): 4-46 & 2 (Summer 1958): 4-46
(Dan Georgakas was the managing editor of this Detroit based journal which published art work, prose, poetry, drama and essays.)

Sinclair, John. *Guitar Army: Street Writings/Prison Writings*. New York: Douglas Book Corporation, 1972

To Serve the Rich. (pamphlet), n.d.

Van der Straeten, Serge and Daufouy, Philippe. *The Counter-Revolution in Ireland.* Detroit: Black & Red, 1974

Velli, Michael. *Manual for Revolutionary Leaders.* Detroit: Black & Red, 1974.

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