Dan Georgakas Papers
2.75 Linear feet (6 MB)

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


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.

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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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEDC</td>
<td>Black Economic Development Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSP</td>
<td>Black Star Productions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BWC</td>
<td>Black Workers Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCC</td>
<td>Control, Conflict, Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARE</td>
<td>Detroit Alliance for a Rational Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DPD</td>
<td>Detroit Police Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUM</td>
<td>Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGU</td>
<td>From the Ground Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRCO</td>
<td>Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LRBW</td>
<td>League of Revolutionary Black Workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCLL</td>
<td>Motor City Labor League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PASCC</td>
<td>Parents and Students for Community Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STRESS</td>
<td>Stop the Robberies, Enjoy Safe Streets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBW</td>
<td>United Black Workers (Ford Motor Plant, Mahwah, N.J.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

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
11 ; promotional material, 1971
12 ; script notes for Finally Got the News (Italian version), c. 1971
13 ; Gessner letter to Georgakas on Finally Got the News, 1972
14 ; miscellaneous notes and fliers, c. 1970-1971
15 ; newspaper clippings, c. 1970-1971
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
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
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
8. Dowdell, Glanton, 1971
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

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 Split, Sep 1972
16. "From the Masses to the Masses," May 1974
17. newspaper clippings, c. 1974
18. New Bethel Case, 1969
19. PASCC; structure and background data, c. 1970
20. progress report, Jun-Dec 1970
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, 1972-1975
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

13. Poetry; Ron Brasch, n.d. (also Detroit Discovery, c. 1973)
14-15. ; Brian P. Flanigan, n.d.
17. ; Jim Gustafson, n.d.
18. ; Barbara L. Hunter, 1972, n.d.
19. ; Richard Marsh, 1971, 1975

Box 6


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.)

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


Subject Index

Black Economic Development Conference 1:3-7, 4:1-2
Black Star Productions 1:8-15
Black Workers Congress 1:17-24, 4:5
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1967 Detroit Riot 3:7
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League of Revolutionary Black Workers 2:6, 4:8-12
Motor City Labor League 4:13-17
Police Harassment and Brutality 3:1-6, 4:13
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