

THE WILLIAM SERAILE COLLECTION

Papers, 1921-1922
1/2 manuscript box

Accession Number 960
L.C. Number MS

The papers of William Seraile were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in September of 1979 by Mr. Seraile and were opened for research in October of 1986.

William Seraile, a specialist in Afro-American history with emphasis on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Black Nationalism contributed articles to numerous scholarly journals. In the mid-eighties he was a member of the faculty of the Department of Black Studies of Herbert H. Lehman College, New York City.

The papers of Mr. Seraile relate to his research on Ben Fletcher (1890-1949), a black unionist and organizer of the International Workers of the World (I.W.W.) Ben Fletcher was arrested in 1918 by the Federal government for interfering with the war effort and subsequently convicted. After the war, numerous individual citizens and groups began to agitate for pardons for the incarcerated I.W.W. members who were regarded as political prisoners. The papers of Mr. Seraile consist primarily of legal briefs and petitions, correspondence, and memoranda relating to the efforts to secure pardons for Ben Fletcher and several other convicted wobblies. Fletcher was given a conditional pardon by President Harding in October, 1922 and subsequently granted a full pardon by President Roosevelt in 1933.

William Seraile Collection

Contents

Box 1

1. Briefs, petitions, 1922
2. Clippings, Oct 1922
3. Correspondence, Dec 1921 - Oct 1922
4. Memoranda, Apr - Aug 1922
5. Seraile, William; biographical note
6. Seraile, William; correspondence, Apr - Je 1975