

Guide to the Murray E. Jackson Papers

LP001806

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Walter P. Reuther Library

5401 Cass Avenue

Detroit, MI 48202

URL: <https://reuther.wayne.edu>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Walter P. Reuther Library
Creator:	Jackson, Murray (Murray E.)
Title:	Murray E. Jackson Papers
ID:	LP001806
Date [inclusive]:	1925-2003
Date [bulk]:	1967-2003
Physical Description:	4.5 Linear Feet (1 MB, 1 SB, 1 OS)
Language of the Material:	English
Language of the Material:	Material entirely in English.
Abstract:	The Murray E. Jackson papers document the life and work of an educator, administrator, civic leader, and poet, who lived from 1926-2002. A bulk of the materials range between the late 1960s and late 1990s. Included in this collection are records documenting his involvement at Wayne State University, Wayne County Community College, the University of Michigan, various community organizations, his career as a poet, as well as personal files.

Citation Style

"Murray E. Jackson Papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University"

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History

Murray Jackson (1926-2002) was an educator, civic leader, and poet. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees at Wayne State University in the humanities, and his love for visual art, music, literature, poetry, and drama was a constant thread throughout his life. His career interests dealt with the politics of urban higher education, notably in his founding of Wayne County Community College in

1967. He also achieved success as a poet, publishing three books of poetry that explored his childhood and experiences in the city of Detroit.

Murray Earl Jackson was born in Philadelphia on December 21, 1926. He moved with his family to Detroit in 1929, the city that served as his inspiration for community action and literary reflection until his death in 2002. Following his WWII service in the US Navy, Jackson gave up a chance to play for the Brooklyn Dodgers in order to attend Wayne State University on the GI Bill.

After obtaining his bachelor's and master's degrees in teaching humanities, 1954 and 1956 respectively, he began his lifelong career as an educator and champion for urban education. He served as a faculty member and administrator at Wayne State university from 1955 to 1968. During this time he was also appointed Coordinator of Special Projects for the University of Michigan Opportunity Awards Program from 1964-1965. He served as the founding president of Wayne County Community College from 1967-1970.

In 1971 he joined the faculty of the Center for the Study of Higher Education as Associate Professor at the University of Michigan. In 1980 he was elected to the Wayne State University Board of Governors, where he served until 2001. Jackson retired from the University of Michigan in 1991.

Jackson was an active community activist and respected poet. Among many other titles, his community involvement included serving as Chairman for the First District Democratic Party of Michigan (1965-1969), the President of the American Lung Association of Southeastern Michigan (1974-1976), and the Executive Director of the Detroit Council of the Arts. Jackson published numerous academic papers, as well as three books of poetry including *Woodland Sketches: Scenes from Childhood* (1990, X-Press Productions), *Watermelon Rinds and Cherry Pits* (1991, Broadside Press), and *Bobweaving Detroit* (2004, Wayne State University Press).

Until his death in 2002, Jackson lived in Detroit with Kathryn V. Lindberg, who he married in 1994. His first wife, Dauris Jackson, a distinguished educator, writer, and public servant, died in 1979. He was survived by his daughter Llenda Jackson-Leslie, son M. David Jackson, MD, and three grandsons, Christopher, Eric, and Gregory.

More information on Jackson can be found in *Bobweaving Detroit: The Selected Poems of Murray Jackson*.

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Scope and Content

The Murray E. Jackson papers record Jackson's activities as an educator, a civic leader, and a poet. His files represent a life committed to higher education, as well as his work as a community leader and poet in Detroit during a turbulent time for African Americans. His engagement with the city, and the respect and accolades from his peers and colleagues, are evident in these files, which center around the late 1960s to late 1990s.

The materials in this collection are separated into three series: **Education and teaching**, **Personal, poetry, and civic engagement**, and **Photographs and oversized materials**.

Materials in the **Education and teaching** series relate to his career at the three colleges where he served in teaching and administrative roles: Wayne State University, Wayne County Community College, and the University of Michigan. This includes documentation related to his travel to China, Zimbabwe, Germany, and England, which served as learning experiences for educational presentations and events. The series also holds material related to his position on the Wayne State Board of Governors, which he served on from 1980-2001, and has accounts of a racially motivated altercation that happened in Detroit as well as misconducts of a fraternity at the same address.

The second series, **Personal, poetry, and civic engagements** documents Jackson's experiences outside of his career as an educator. This series showcases the leadership roles that he held and civic organizations he was a part of, including The Mariners Inn, a shelter and treatment center for the homeless, The Detroit Council for the Arts, and the Michigan Council for the Humanities. Material includes correspondence from congressmen and civic leaders including Jerome Cavanaugh, William Milliken, and John Conyers Jr., as well as personal correspondence and biographical statements written by or about Jackson.

This series also documents Jackson's career as an author in the form of drafts of poems, fliers for readings and events, and newspaper clippings reviewing his work. There are numerous letters from friends, colleagues, and former students describing what his poetry meant to them and their impressions of his work. Also included is a draft of Jackson's final publication, "Bobweaving Detroit: Running to Catch the Past."

The third series, **Photographs and oversized materials**, consists of photographs of Jackson at professional events and university functions, and recognition of his work in the form of certificates and awards. All oversized materials are listed in the Collection Inventory below.

Series 1: Education and Teaching, 1947-2000 Series 2: Personal, poetry, and civic engagement, 1926-2003 Series 3: Photographs and oversized materials, 1959-1999

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Arrangement

Arranged in 3 series – Series 1 (Box 1-2), Series 2 (Box 2) and Series 3 (Box 2-3). Folders are arranged alphabetically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Acquisition

This collection was donated to the Walter P. Reuther Library on February 20, 2003.

Processing History

Processed and finding aid written by Colleen Cirocco and Shae Rafferty on March 15, 2019.

Access

Collection is open for research.

Use

Refer to the Walter P. Reuther Library "Rules for Use of Archival Materials."

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Controlled Access Headings

- Adult Education
- Detroit (Mich.)
- Poetry
- Civic leaders
- African American authors
- Wayne State University
- Wayne County Community College

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Education and Teaching

Title/Description	Instances	
Course materials, 1983-1994	Box 1	Folder 1
The GI Bill and education, 1984-1996	Box 1	Folder 2
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, 1947-1998	Box 1	Folder 3
Miscellaneous education, 1968-2000	Box 1	Folder 4
Travel: China trip, circa 1970s	Box 1	Folder 5
Travel: Post China trip events, 1979-1983	Box 1	Folder 6
Travel: Nuremburg, Germany; England, 1978-1994	Box 1	Folder 7
Travel: Jackson's writings on Zimbabwe, 1982	Box 1	Folder 8
Travel: Zimbabwe related literature, 1970-1982	Box 1	Folder 9
University of Michigan, 1965-2000	Box 1	Folder 10
Wayne County Community College: Reports on WCCC, 1967-1994	Box 1	Folder 11
Wayne County Community College: Miscellaneous, 1968-1984	Box 1	Folder 12
Wayne County Community College: Meeting minutes, 1968-1971	Box 1	Folder 13-15
Wayne State University: Graduations and awards, 1968-1978	Box 1	Folder 16
Wayne State University: Miscellaneous, 1968-2001	Box 1	Folder 17
Wayne State University: Periodicals and newsletters, 1981-1985	Box 1	Folder 18
Wayne State University: Board of Governors, 1979-2000	Box 2	Folder 1
Wayne State University: Incidents at 119 Virginia Park St, 1994, 1996	Box 2	Folder 2
Wayne State University: Involvement with the Michigan Democratic Party, 1996	Box 2	Folder 3
Writings by Jackson, undated	Box 2	Folder 4

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Series 2: Personal, poetry, and civic engagement

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical statements, undated	Box 2	Folder 5

Civic engagements, 1969-2001	Box 2	Folder 6
Civic Engagements: Certificates and awards, 1971-1999	Box 2	Folder 7
Correspondence, 1969-2000	Box 2	Folder 8
Charitable giving and travel expenses, 1993, 1994	Box 2	Folder 9
Dauris Jackson, first wife, 1976-1980	Box 2	Folder 10
Jazz related publications, 1975-1980	Box 2	Folder 11
Letters of recommendation for Arthur L. Steele, 1925, 1937	Box 2	Folder 12

Scope and Contents

Letters of recommendation for Arthur L. Steele, a black man from Texas who moved to Detroit sometime between 1925 and 1935.

Poetry career, 1986-2000	Box 2	Folder 13
Poetry by Murray Jackson, 1991-2003	Box 2	Folder 14

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Series 3: Photographs and oversized materials

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs, undated	Box 2	Folder 15
Certificates and awards, 1975-1999	Box 3	Item 1-3
Jackson's Wayne State University diploma for Master of Arts in Teaching College Humanities, 1959	Box 3	Item 4
"Beyond the Difference" published by New Detroit, Inc., 1969	Box 3	Item 5
Wayne County Community College poster, undated	Box 3	Item 6
Issues of "City Arts Quarterly," 1987, 1988	Box 3	Item 7-9

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