

Guide to the Lester Blackwell Granger Papers

JWJ MSS 58



by Tina Evans and Jennifer Meehan

2009

P. O. Box 208330
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: JWJ MSS 58

CREATOR: Granger, Lester B. (Lester Blackwell), 1896-1976

TITLE: Lester Blackwell Granger papers

DATES: 1936-1970

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.08 linear feet (5 boxes + 1 framed art work)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of writings, notes, clippings, correspondence, and other papers, stemming from Lester Blackwell Granger's work as executive secretary of the National Urban League and his involvement in social work and civil rights issues. Writings consist of annotated and corrected typescript drafts and printed copies of speeches and addresses, autobiographical works, and social commentaries by Granger, as well as some fiction. Also found are papers relating to the National Urban League, a transcript of an interview with Granger, and an oil painting of Granger by Manet Harrison Fowler.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.granger>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.granger>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. on the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts & Letters Fund, 2009.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Lester Blackwell Granger Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Lester Blackwell Granger Papers. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Lester Blackwell Granger (1896-1976)

Lester Blackwell Granger was an African-American civic leader and social worker. Born in 1896, he grew up in Newark, NJ, and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1918. After serving in the United States Army during the First World War, he worked briefly for the Newark chapter of the National Urban League. From 1922 to 1934, Granger was an extension worker with the New Jersey state vocational school for African-American youth in Bordentown. He served on the worker's educational section of the National Urban League from 1934 to 1938, and led the organization's efforts to promote trade unionism among African American workers and challenge racism by employers and labor organizations. He served as assistant executive secretary of the National Urban League from 1940 to 1941 and as executive secretary from 1941 to 1961. He was also a leading figure in social work, serving as president of the National Conference of Social Work in 1952. After retiring from the National Urban League in 1961, Granger joined the faculty of Dillard University in New Orleans, LA, and in 1972 was named Amistad Scholar in Residence there. He died in Alexandria, LA in 1976.

Biographical note is drawn from [The African American Registry](#) and the [National Association of Social Workers Foundation](#) websites for Granger (accessed on 17 December 2009).

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of writings, notes, clippings, correspondence, and other papers, stemming from Lester Blackwell Granger's work as executive secretary of the National Urban League and his involvement in social work and civil rights issues. Writings consist of annotated and corrected typescript drafts and

printed copies of speeches and addresses, autobiographical works, and social commentaries by Granger, as well as some fiction. Also found are papers relating to the National Urban League, a transcript of an interview with Granger, and an oil painting of Granger by Manet Harrison Fowler.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series: I. Writings, 1937-1970. II. Other Papers, 1936-1969. III. Art Work, undated.

Collection Contents

Series I: Writings, 1937-1970

Largely arranged in alphabetical order by title.

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| b. 1, f. 1 | Abstract of remarks by Lester B. Granger to be delivered at the opening session of the Michigan Welfare Conference | 1950 |
| b. 1, f. 2-4 | American Community: A Dynamic Process | 1955 |
| b. 1, f. 5 | American Teamwork - Today and in the Years Ahead | |
| b. 1, f. 6 | Annual Report of the Executive Director, National Urban League | 1952 |
| b. 1, f. 7-8 | Autobiography | |
| b. 1, f. 9 | Battle-Ax and Bread | 1945-1956 |
| b. 1, f. 10 | Barriers to Negro War Employment | |
| b. 1, f. 11 | Beauty and the Wonder and the Power | |
| b. 1, f. 12-13 | Biographical | |
| b. 1, f. 14-18 | Biography | |
| b. 1, f. 19 | Challenge of Change | 1953 |
| b. 1, f. 20 | Children and Youth 1960: Assessing the Impact on Them of Economic, Social, and Cultural Factors | |
| b. 1, f. 21-23 | Community Organization | 1961 |
| b. 1, f. 24 | Community Relations Project | 1946 |
| b. 2, f. 25 | Community Sources of Courage in Children, address by Granger at annual conference of the Child Study Association | 1954 |
| b. 2, f. 26 | Counseling Process in Community Planning | |
| b. 2, f. 27 | Family | |
| b. 2, f. 28 | Field Specialists of the Community Relations Project | |
| b. 2, f. 29 | For Freedom, It Be Now Found | |
| b. 2, f. 30-32 | Handbook of Counseling Techniques | 1961 |
| b. 2, f. 33 | Harlem Comes of Age | 1937 |
| b. 2, f. 34 | Harlem Riot - Before and After | 1948 |
| b. 2, f. 35 | Immigrant | |
| b. 2, f. 36 | Integrated Housing "Social Work's Challenge and Opportunity" | 1955 |
| b. 2, f. 37 | International Conference of Social Work Executive Committee Minutes | 1963 |

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| b. 2, f. 38 | Introductory Remarks | |
| b. 2, f. 39 | "Ironsides" the Bordentown Vocational School | 1940-1950 |
| b. 2, f. 40 | Wartime Steps Toward Postwar Security | |
| b. 2, f. 41 | Louis Simon Testimonial Dinner | |
| b. 2, f. 42 | Manhattan and Beyond | 1948-1960 |
| b. 2, f. 43 | Measuring Rod for Social Progress | |
| b. 2, f. 44 | Mission to a New Nation - Ghana's Independence Celebration | 1957 |
| b. 2, f. 45 | National Council of Jewish Women | 1958 |
| b. 2, f. 46 | Nature and Role of Community Development | 1952 |
| b. 2, f. 47 | New Services and Old Needs, address at luncheon meeting of Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies | 1965 |
| b. 2, f. 48 | New Trade Union Movements and the Negro Worker | 1937 |
| b. 2, f. 49 | New York Urban League and the Education of Negro Children in New York City | 1966 |
| b. 3, f. 50-51 | Notes | |
| b. 3, f. 52 | Notes for Address at International Conference of Social Work | 1954 |
| b. 3, f. 53 | Peace! | |
| b. 3, f. 54 | President, the Negro, and Defense | |
| b. 3, f. 55 | Racial Factor in Our International Relations | |
| b. 3, f. 56 | Remarks at Lester Granger Tribute | 1961 |
| b. 3, f. 57 | School Desegregation | 1958 |
| b. 3, f. 58 | Social Component of International Development, address | 1961 |
| b. 3, f. 59 | Social Development - The Hidden Component | |
| b. 3, f. 60-61 | Social Work's Response to Democracy's Challenge | 1952 |
| b. 3, f. 62 | Story Thus Far, address | 1961 |
| b. 3, f. 63 | Suggested as Outline for Article in the Saturday Evening Post | 1954 |
| b. 3, f. 64 | Testimony of the National Urban League before House Judiciary Committee | 1958 |
| b. 3, f. 65 | Vespers Service Address at Dillard University | 1962 |
| b. 3, f. 66 | Mrs. Smith | 1970 |
| b. 3, f. 67-68 | Untitled Essay | |
| b. 3, f. 69-70 | Untitled Manuscript and Typescript | |
| b. 3, f. 71 | New Poverty, lecture by Raymond Hilliard | 1964 |

b. 3, f. 72

Fragments

Series II: Other Papers, 1936-1969

Not arranged in any particular order.

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| b. 3, f. 73 | Newspaper Clippings | 1936-1960 |
| b. 3, f. 74 | The Changing Image | 1961 |
| b. 3, f. 75-76 | Gary, Indiana Social Case | 1946-1947 |
| b. 4, f. 77 | Interviews with Lester B. Granger | 1968 |
| b. 4, f. 78 | National Urban League | 1945-1961 |
| b. 4, f. 79 | National Urban League Excerpts from Remarks at Lester B. Granger Tribute | 1961 |
| b. 4, f. 80 | National Urban League Press Releases | 1945-1964 |
| b. 4, f. 81 | Reports | 1960-1968 |
| b. 4, f. 82 | Resume | |
| b. 4, f. 83 | Black and White Portrait Photograph | 1969 |
| b. 4, f. 84 | Printed Material | 1939-1961 |
| b. 4, f. 85-87 | Correspondence | 1943-1969 |

Series III: Art Work, undated

| | | |
|---------------|---|---------|
| b. art, f. 88 | Oil painting of Lester Blackwell Granger by Manet Harrison Fowler | undated |
| b. 5 | Metal box originally housing oil painting | undated |

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

African American civic leaders
African American social workers
Civic leaders -- United States
Civil Rights movements -- United States -- 20th
Century
Social workers -- United States

Genres / Formats

Oil paintings (visual works)

Names

Fowler, Manet Harrison, 1895-1976
Granger, Lester B. (Lester Blackwell), 1896-1976

Corporate Body

National Urban League

Contributors

Granger, Lester B. (Lester Blackwell), 1896-1976
Fowler, Manet Harrison, 1895-1976