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## James Aronson - W.E.B. Du Bois Collection

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Materials written by or pertaining to W.E.B. Du Bois, collected by James Aronson, who was executive editor of the "National Guardian" from 1948 to 1967. Includes correspondence, speeches by Du Bois in published form, articles by Du Bois, biographical sketches and tribute articles about Du Bois, photographs, and newspaper clippings.

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Civil rights

Du Bois, W. E. B.

Social change

## Scope of collection

The collection consists of materials from James Aronson's personal papers that were written by or pertain to W.E.B. Du Bois. Aronson served as the executive editor of the *National Guardian*, "the longest-lived and most prestigious of... postwar radical newspapers, from 1948 to 1967.<sup>1</sup> The *National Guardian* was created to provide a dissenting voice during the intensification of the Cold War and McCarthy era, a vehicle for the Progressive Party, and to push for the expansion and radicalization of New Deal policies.<sup>2</sup> The *National Guardian's* commitment to free speech and oppositional politics during the Red Scare provided Du Bois a forum to both make a living and be heard while the U.S. government sought to limit his influence. During this fifteen year span, a period that Aronson later explained as a time in which "almost no one else would publish him," Du Bois produced over 130 articles for the National Guardian.<sup>3</sup>

Correspondence includes letters from Shirley Graham Du Bois to Aronson, speeches by Du Bois in published form, articles by and about Du Bois, photographs, and newsclippings. Most of Du Bois' articles that appeared in the National Guardian between 1948 and 1963 are included. The articles covered an array of topics, but were principally concerned with pacifism, socialism, Pan Africanism, African socialism, African history, African American history, and critiques of the anti-democratic nature of McCarthyism, capitalistic exploitation and its impact on non-white nations and people, and racism in the U.S. Articles about Du Bois are also included, including several biographical sketches and a series of tributes written between 1951 and 1983.

The speeches included in the collection are from the late 1940s and early 1950s and were made while Du Bois was campaigning for Progressive Party presidential candidate Henry Wallace and during Du Bois's senatorial campaign on the American Labor Party Ticket in New York in 1950. The photographs included are from 1958 and were taken in both London and the U.S.

The newspaper clippings, 1947 to 1964, cover a range of events including the government's attempt to charge Du Bois with being an "agent of a foreign power"; the government's refusal to issue Du Bois passports throughout the 1950s, including its refusal to allow him to attend Ghana's 1957 independence celebration; and press coverage from around the world regarding Du Bois's death in 1963.

## Footnotes

Dan Georgakas, "National Guardian/Guardian" in *Encyclopedia of the American Left*, 2nd ed., edited by Mari Jo Buhle, Paul Buhle & Dan Georgakas (Oxford University Press, 1998), 529.

The editors of the paper, in fact, even tried to secure funding from the Progressive Party, but to no avail. The *National Guardian's* first issue contained an article written by Progressive Party presidential candidate Henry Wallace. At the state level the paper was aligned with the American Labor Party, an Independent-Socialist ticket that sponsored the Gubernatorial campaign of Guardian co-editor John McManus and the Senatorial campaign of Du Bois.

Cedric Belgrave and James Aronson, *Something to Guard: The Stormy Life of the National Guardian, 1948-1967* (Columbia University Press, 1978), 138.

## Inventory

Correspondence (W.E.B. Du Bois with Aronson, Belgrave, et al.)

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Correspondence

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Correspondence

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Correspondence (Shirley Graham Du Bois with Aronson)

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Speeches by W.E.B. Du Bois (typescripts and/or published versions)

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Press conference, Hotel Theresa

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Box 1

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Box 1

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Box 1

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The Stalin Peace Prizes, Hotel Theresa

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What is Wrong with the US?, Guardian's welcome meeting for Vincent Hallinan

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The Exploitation of Colored Labor (excerpts), Committee to Further the Goals of Geneva

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The Wealth of the West vs. A Chance for Exploited Mankind (from same speech as above) in National Guardian

1955

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Box 1

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90th Birthday Response, Church of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, Negro History Week celebration

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91st Birthday (condensation), Peking University, China

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World Peace Council

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Murder and Destruction for Human Progress, Rally for Peace and Disarmament, Toronto

Feb. 7, 1960

Box 1

The Wrongs which Suppress Our Rights, Emergency Civil Liberties Committee meeting, New Yorker Hotel

June 15, 1960

Box 1

On the Vast and Reckless Waste of Human Life (re: Louis Burnham)

June 20, 1960

Box 1

The Foreign Born, American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, Hotel Great Northern, New York

Box 1

Writings - Articles by W.E.B. Du Bois (published and unpublished)

Feb. 14, n.y.

Box 1: 11

Georgia: Torment of a State, NM

Sept. 10, 1946

Box 1

My Relations with the NAACP

ca 1948

Box 1

From McKinley to Wallace: My Fifty Years as a Political Independent, Masses and Mainstream

August 1948

Box 1

(Title unknown), *National Guardian*\*

1952

Box 1

Uganda (unpublished)

1949

Box 1

Testimony, House Foreign Affairs Committee, in *The Daily Compass*

1949

Box 1

Statement on Korea

Oct. 4, 1950

Box 1

The Big Problem: To Get the Truth to the People, *National Guardian*

Jan. 24, 1951  
Box 1  
There Must Come a Vast Social Change in the US, *National Guardian*

July 11, 1951  
Box 1  
Why John Brown's Soul Marches On, *National Guardian*

Feb. 14, 1951  
Box 1  
The Choice that Confronts America's Negroes, *National Guardian*

Feb. 13, 1952  
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The Elections (unpublished)  
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China (unpublished)

Jan. 7, 1953  
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Corporation Democracy

Jan. 12, 1953  
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The Commonsense Party

Apr. 6, 1953  
Box 1  
The Hard-bit Man in the Loud Shirts, *National Guardian*  
1953  
Box 1  
He Knew the Common Man...Followed his Fate (re Stalin), *National Guardian*  
1953  
Box 1  
On Cats, Public Manners and the Education of Educators

Mar. 23, 1953  
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Cannot this Paralyzed Nation Awake?

Apr. 12, 1954  
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A Third Party - or Even a Second

May 17, 1954  
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American Negroes and Africa, *National Guardian*

Feb. 14, 1955  
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Ethiopia: State Socialism under an Emperor, *National Guardian*  
1955  
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Slavery in the Union of South Africa, *National Guardian*  
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Question of Formosa

Feb. 14, 1955  
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News release re: series on Africa in *National Guardian*

Feb. 7, 1955  
Box 1  
Let's Restore Democracy to America, *National Guardian*

Jan. 2, 1956  
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The Negro in America Today, *National Guardian*

Jan. 16, 1956  
Box 1

How United are Negroes?, *National Guardian*

Jan. 23, 1956

Box 1

Democracy in America, *National Guardian*

Feb. 13, 1956

Box 1

The Political Power of the South, *National Guardian*

Mar. 5, 1956

Box 1

The Theory of a Third Party, *National Guardian*, Mar 26 (also, as reprinted in The People's Peace Party Forum, Winamac, Indiana, May)

1956

Box 1

Cure for America's Disaster Lies within Ourselves (intended as closing remarks at debate on America's Road to Democracy and World Peace, Carnegie Hall, May 27), *National Guardian*

June 11, 1956

Box 1

Clean Out the Congress, *National Guardian*

June 25, 1956

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The Saga of Nkrumah (The Spectator column)

July 30, 1956

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Reform the US Senate or Lose your Democracy, *National Guardian*

Nov. 5, 1956

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Negro History Centenaries

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Will the Great Gandhi Live Again?, *National Guardian*

Feb. 11, 1957

Box 1

The Collier's Story: It Had 4,000,000 Readers But It Died, *National Guardian*

Mar. 11, 1957

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A Future for Pan-Africa: Freedom, Peace, Socialism, *National Guardian*

Mar. 11, 1957

Box 1

Negroes and Socialism

Apr. 29, 1957

Box 1

Colombo: No Peace Delegate from US?

June 10, 1957

Box 1

Letter to Editor

June 24, 1957

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Watchword for Negroes: Register and Vote, *National Guardian*

July 8, 1957

Box 1

Does 'All Deliberate Speed' Mean 338 Years?, *National Guardian*

Nov. 4, 1957

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A Vista of Ninety Fruitful Years, *National Guardian*

Feb. 17, 1958

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The Independocrat at the Dinner Table

July 7, 1958

Box 1

Africa Awakened, excerpted from Labour Monthly  
Feb. 1959  
Box 1  
The Vast Miracle of China Today, *National Guardian*  
June 8, 1959  
Box 1  
The Africans and the Colonialist Tactic, New Times, no. 7  
1959  
Box 1  
The Lie of History as it is Taught Today, *National Guardian*  
Feb. 15, 1960  
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A Program of Reason, Right and Justice for Today, *National Guardian*  
May 23, 1960  
Box 1  
Africa and World Peace, Bulletin of the World Council of Peace  
June 1960  
Box 1  
John Brown's Battle for Kansas, *National Guardian*  
June 6, 1960  
Box 1  
Letter to Editor, *National Guardian*  
Oct. 10, 1960  
Box 1  
American Negroes and Africa's Rise to Freedom, *National Guardian*  
Feb. 13, 1961  
Box 1  
A Logical Program for a Free Congo (partial), *National Guardian*  
May 15, 1961  
Box 1  
For Africa, An Encyclopedia, Afro-American magazine  
Oct. 21, 1961  
Box 1  
Africa Awake! Put on the Beautiful Robes of Socialism, The Ghanaian Times  
Aug. 31, 1963  
Box 1  
The Independocrat at the Dinner Table (reprinted), *National Guardian*  
Feb. 20, 1963  
Box 1  
The Negro Progressives

Box 1  
The Negro Voter

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A Bitter Battle is Shaping Up, *National Guardian*

Box 1  
Writings by Du Bois (pamphlets)

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I Take My Stand for Peace  
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Signing portrait for John T. McManus, New York  
Aug. 1958  
Box 1  
Interview Transcript, W.E.B. Du Bois and Al Morgan, Dumont Broadcasting  
June 1957  
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Biographical Sketches and Vitae of WEBD

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Bibliographies of W.E.B. Du Bois writings; book reviews of his books; prospecti for W.E.B. Du Bois books

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Carnegie Hall Memorial, Shirley Graham Du Bois  
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Du Bois Centennial  
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Schomburg Bronze Head Dedication

Box 1  
Aronson, James to Harvard Alumni  
1969  
Box 1  
Speeches and Articles about W.E.B. Du Bois

Box 1: 22  
Robeson, Paul, American Labor Party Rally, Madison Square Garden  
Oct. 24 1950

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Kahn, Albert E, Agents of Peace (pamphlet)  
1951

Box 1  
Reddick, Lawrence, "Right to Advocate Peace" meeting address, Town Hall, New York  
Sept. 28, 1951

Box 1  
Hunton, Alpheus, Du Bois and Africa, Accra  
Feb. 12, 1964

Box 1  
Meyer, Howard N., WEB Du Bois and 'The Problem of the Color Line', Wall Street Journal  
Feb. 23, 1968

Box 1  
'Red Hunting beyond the Grave' The Nation  
Apr. 1, 1968

Box 1  
Duberman, Martin, Du Bois as Prophet, The New Republic  
Mar. 23, 1968

Box 1  
Pittman, John, A Long Night's Journey to Tomorrow's Sunrise, Daily World  
Feb. 5, 1969  
Box 1  
Special issue on Du Bois and Black Liberation with articles by Aptheker, Hunton, Joseph North, Mindy Thompson, World Magazine  
Feb. 21, 1970  
Box 1  
Marable, Manning, Peace and Black Liberation: The Contributions of WEBD  
June 3, 1983  
Box 1  
(Du Bois in the National Guardian), paper by Lisa ?  
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Miscellaneous

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Is Peace a Crime? The Case of the Peace Information Center, brochure, National Committee to Defend Dr. WEBD  
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Resolution Adopted by the General Council of Local 600, United Auto Workers-CIO  
Sept. 9, 1951  
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Katanka, Michael, in London, article sent to Belfrage, typescript  
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The Philadelphia Transit Strike Of 1944, by Allan M. Winkler, reprinted from J of American History  
June 1972  
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Notes (made by James Aronson?)

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News clippings about W.E.B. Du Bois and related subjects  
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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired from Grambs Aronson, 1990.

### Processing Information

Processed by David Goldberg, 2001.

### Digitized content

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### Language:

English

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## Search terms

### Subjects

African Americans--Civil rights.  
African Americans--History--1877-1964.  
Aronson, James--Correspondence.  
Du Bois, Shirley Graham, 1896-1977--Correspondence.  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Death and burial.  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on Pan-Africanism.  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on democracy.  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on pacifism.  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963--Views on socialism.  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963.  
National guardian.  
Socialism--Africa.  
United States--Race relations.

### Contributors

Aronson, James, collector [main entry]  
Du Bois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963.

### Genres and formats

Photographs.  
Speeches.

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