Guide to the Papers of

Monroe N. Work

Prepared by Dana Chandler and Cheryl Ferguson, 2010

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator: Monroe N. Work** (1866-1945)

**Title:** Papers of Monroe N. Work

**Dates:** 1869-1983

**Quantity:** 7.7 cubic feet

**Identification:** 97.001

**Abstract:** Monroe N. Work founded the Department of Records

and Research at Tuskegee University in 1908. He collected

many items such as the *Lynching Records* (1881-1953) and

*Race Relations Reports* (1954-63) and published *The Negro*

*Year Book* (1912-51) and the *Bibliography of the*

*Negro in Africa and America* (1928).

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Monroe N. Work (1866-1945)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in existing file boxes, with the documents in folders. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents. The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Personal Names**

Davis, Ralph

Dubois, W. E. B. (William Edward Burghardt), 1868-1963

Gomillion, Charles G. (Charles Goode), 1900-

Guzzman, Jessee P.

Moton, Robert Russa, 1867-1940

Washington, Booker T., 1856-1915

### Corporate Subjects

African American newspapers  
African Americans  
Civil rights  
Freedmen  
Slavery  
Slaves--Emancipation

Social justice -- United States

Social problems

Women's rights  
Africa--Description and travel  
United States--Economic conditions--19th century  
United States--Politics and government--19th century

### Topical Subjects

African American civil rights workers

African American intellectuals -- 20th century

African Americans -- Civil rights -- History -- 20th century

African Americans -- Economic conditions -- 20th century

African Americans -- Social conditions -- To 1964

African Americans -- Southern States

Anti-communist movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Civil rights demonstrations -- Southern States

Civil rights demonstrations -- United States

Civil rights movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century

Civil rights workers -- United States

Internal security -- United States -- History -- 20th century

**Biography**

Monroe N. (Nathan) Work was born August 15, 1866 to Alexander and Eliza Work in Iredell County, North Carolina. Born the son of ex-slaves, at 23 years of age, Work attended a biracial high school in Arkansas City, Kansas where he graduated third in his class. He subsequently attended Chicago Theological Seminary, University of Chicago, where he received his B.A. in philosophy and an M. A. in sociology and psychology (1903). After a short time (1903-08) at Georgia State Industrial College as a professor of history and pedagogy where he also joined W.E.B. Dubois’ Niagara Movement and founded the Savannah Men's Sunday Club in an attempt to aid impoverished African Americans. Work then responded to an invitation by Booker T. Washington to come to Tuskegee in 1904 where he established the Department of Records and Research of which he was director until his retirement in 1938. This department collected, compiled information regarding all phases of African American life and provided the foundation for Tuskegee University’s archives.

Work’s accomplishments were many including compiling the *Lynching Records* (1881-1938) the *Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America* (1928); editing and publishing *The Negro Year Book* (1912-38); and helping to organize the National Negro Health Week of which he served as director until it became a part of the U.S. Public Health Service in 1930.

Work died on May 2, 1945.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Monroe N. Work consisted of documents spanning 1869-1983, and include research articles and data, personal and business correspondence, and manuscript articles prepared for publication by Work during his tenure at the Tuskegee Institute and material about Work by others. Articles and data included material African and African Americans for publication. Personal and business correspondence includes his biographical information, legal documents, and recommendations. Also, includes information specific to the making of the *Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America* and *The Negro Year Book*.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into three series.

Series I: Personal Records and Correspondence

Series II: Research, Special Reports, Studies, and Publications Related to Africa

Series III: Correspondence and Reports Related to African American Inventors

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Series I (Boxes 1-13): Personal Records and Correspondence**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Monroe N. Work- Autobiographical Sketches

1 2 Monroe Work: A Black Scholar at Tuskegee

1 3 The South and the Conservation of negro health- An Advance Section

from the1914-15 Edition of the Negro Year Book

1 4 Citation-University of Chicago-Alumni Association

1 5 Citation-Howard University, June 4, 1943

1 6 Harmon Award Conference

1 7 20th century Club

1 8 Making A Bibliography

1 9 Retirement Resolution

1 10 Necrology

1 11 Funeral Arrangement and Will

1 12 Printers Blocks with Photos of Work

**Box Folder**

2 1 1931 Subscription, Clipping Receipts, etc.

2 2 Receipts for Books and periodicals Bought 1932

2 3 Requisitions of Books and periodicals 1932

2 4 Requisitions of Books and periodicals Bought 1932

2 5 Equipment and Furniture Receipts 1932

2 6 Letters from W.E.B. DuBois to Mr. Work

2 7 General Correspondence 1908

2 8 General Correspondence 1909

2 9 Correspondence: Inquiry Concerning the Study

2 10 Some Negro members Reconstruction Convention and Legislatures and of

Congress

2 11 Monroe Works-Works

2 12 General Correspondence 1915

2 13 Work, Monroe N.

2 14 General Correspondence 1917

2 15 General Correspondence 1918

2 16 Correspondence-Miscellaneous

2 17 Correspondences Relating to the Study-Mr. Otis

**Box Folder**

3 1 Correspondence: Mr. Stephens

3 2 General Correspondences 1920

3 3 General Correspondences 1921

3 4 General Correspondences 1926

3 5 General Correspondences 1927

3 6 General Correspondences 1929

3 7 Letter to Ralph Davis from W. Daniel

3 8 Improvements of Race Relations-Correspondences 1930

3 9 Letters to Monroe N. Work from Frank Chisholm and W.E.B. DuBois

3 10 Correspondences of Books and periodical Bought 1931

3 11 Correspondences for Books and periodical Purchased 1931

3 12 Correspondences and Receipts of Subscriptions and Publications 1932

3 13 Correspondences: Mr. Davis 1935

3 14 Correspondence: Mr. Go million 1935

3 15 Correspondences: Mr. Nash 1936

3 16 Correspondence: Mr. Go million 1936

3 17 General Correspondences 1937

**Box Folder**

4 1 General Correspondence 1938

4 2 General Correspondence 1941

4 3 General Correspondence 1942

4 4 General Correspondence 1943

4 5 General Correspondence 1944

4 6 General Correspondence 1945

4 7 Folk-Tales from Students in Tuskegee, AL July-Sept. 1919george State College vol. 32 no. 125

4 8 By-Laws Tuskegee Co-Operative Building and Loan Assn. 1933

4 9 Booker T. Washington, Missionary Worker

4 10 How Tuskegee Has Improved A Black Belt County

4 11 Fifty of Progress 1863-1913

4 12 Objective of Tuskegee Institute

4 13 Industrial Work of Tuskegee Graduate and Former Students, “The Value of an

Industrial Education”

4 14 The Tuskegee Messenger, vol. 6 no. 15 August 16, 1930

**Box Folder**

5 1 Speeches and Addresses 1912-1929

5 2 Addresses, Speeches, Reports 1916-1946

5 3 Speeches and Addresses 1918-1930

5 4 Reports and Addresses 1923-1935

5 5 Five Years of the Negro Life 1925-1930

5 6 The Negro in Business

5 7 Negro Criminality in the South

5 8 The Negro in a Changing World

**Box Folder (Copy of Box 7)**

6 1 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1913

6 2 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1914-15 Edition

6 3 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1916-17 edition

6 4 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1918-19 Edition

6 5 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1922-23 Edition

6 6 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1937-38 Edition

**Box Folder (Not for Researchers use)**

7 1 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1913

7 2 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1914-15 Edition

7 3 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1916-17 edition

7 4 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1918-19 Edition

7 5 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1922-23 Edition

7 6 Negro Year Book Newspaper Clippings 1937-38 Edition

**Box Folder**

8 1 The Race Problem in Cross Section: The South in 1923

8 2 Some Racial Peculiarities of the Negro Brain by Robert B. Bean

8 3 Racial Factors and Economics Forces in Land Tenure in the South

8 4 Aspects and tendencies of the Race Problem (1912-24)

8 5 Problem of Adjustment of Race and Class in the South

8 6 Recommendations-Race Problem or race Difficulties

8 7 Some general Problem of Negro Urban Welfare

8 8 The History of the race Problems 1863-1924

8 9 Historical data N.A.A.C.P. - Original Matter on the Niagara Movement out of

Which Originated at the NAACP

8 10 Constitution and By-laws of the Niagara Movement

**Box Folder**

9 1 Reports on Education

9 2 Racial Factors in Land Tenure by Monroe N. Work

9 3 What Uncle Tom is Doing for the Negro Farmer

9 4 The Southern Sociological Congress and the Race Problems

9 5 Some Striking Facts Considering Negro Progress in the South

9 6 The Mission Work of the Negro Church

9 7 Improvements of Race Relations- Miscellaneous 1930

9 8 Conference on Racialism

9 9 General Education Board Aid

**Box Folder**

10 1 The Reformed Presbyterian Covenanter, March 1863 and Jan 1863

10 2 References-Race Relations, “The Negro in America”

10 3 Newspaper Clipping- “To Add Liberia,” The New York Age, Feb. 18, 1908

10 4 Liberia Bulletins no. 34 Feb 1909

10 5 A Call for Support for Liberia, Springfield, MA republican, march 4, 1909

10 6 The National Geographic Magazine, vol. XX no. 3 March 1909

10 7 The Survey, August 7, 1909

10 8 The Anti Slavery Reporter and Aborigines Friend, July 1910

10 9 The America Museum Journal vol. XI no. 1 January 1911

10 10 African Times Orient Review, vol. 1 no. 2 Aug 1912

10 11 One Hundred and Second Annual Report of the American Board of

Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 1912

10 12 Newspaper Clippings, “The Church and the…,” 1932

10 13 The Slave Trade Africa to America

10 14 East Africa vol. 4 no. 173 Jan. 12, 1928

**Box Folder**

11 1 A Half Century of Progress A Contrast The Negro in America in 1866 and in

1922 by Monroe N. Work

11 2 Report, The Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedman and Abandoned

Lands, Dec. 2, 1867

11 3 Report of Major general O.O. Howard, 1868

11 4 Report of Brevet Major General O. O. Howard to the Secretary of War, Oct. 28,

1869

11 5 Report of the Freedman’s Bureau 1869

11 6 Report of Commissioner of Bureau of Refugee, Freedman and Abandoned Land

1870

11 7 The Case of General O. O. Howard, U.S. Army, Washington D.C. 1874

11 8 The Outlook, April 17, 1909, The Government As A Teacher

11 9 Fifty Years of Negro Progress vol. VI no. 10, Jan. 1913

11 10 The National Economic League Quarterly, Conditions and Problems After the

War, vol. 2 no. 3, Nov. 1916

11 11 The South’s Labor Problem vol. XIX no. 1 Jan 1920

11 12 The Missionary Review of the World Vol. XIV no. 6 June 1922

11 13 Some Best Book on the American negro Selected by Monroe N. Work 1922

11 14 The Student World, April 1923

11 15 Opportunity A Journal of Negro vol. 2 no. 14, Feb. 1924

11 16 The Missionary Review World, June 1936

11 17 Bantu Literature Classification and reviews by D. D. T. Jabavu, 1921

11 18 The Negro Migration by Monroe N. Work, 1924

11 19 Unknown Book pages 145-180

**Box Folder**

12 1 “Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America,” Part 3 Chapter XXX-XXXV

12 2 “Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America,” Part 3 Chapter XXXIV-XLV

12 3 “Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America,” Part3-5

12 4 Prospectus “Bibliography of European Colonization and The resulting Contacts

of People, Races, Nations and Cultures,” Monroe N. Work, Complier

**Box Folder**

13 1 “Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America,” Part 1 Ch. I-VI

13 2 “Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America,” Part 1 Ch. VII-XIII

13 3 “The Truth about the Civilisation in Congoland,” by A. Belgian, 1903

13 4 Prospectus “Bibliography of European Colonization and The resulting Contacts

of People, Races, Nations and Cultures,” Monroe N. Work, Complier

13 5 A Bibliography of the Negro in Africa and America, Sample pages, 1928

13 6 A Statement by the Complier, Monroe N. Work Concerning, “A Bibliography of

European Colonization and The resulting Contacts of People, Races, Nations and

Cultures”

**Series II (Boxes 14-20) Research, Special Reports, Studies, and Publications Related to**

**Africa**

**Box Folder (Copy of Box 16)**

14 1 Africa- Agriculture, Methods and Products

14 2 Africa-Agriculture, Rituals

14 3 Africa- Beginning of Scientific Processes

14 4 Africa-Domestication of Animals

14 5 Africa-Dwelling, Places, Houses, etc.

14 6 Africa-Eminent Africans

14 7 Africa-Food

14 8 Africa-Games

14 9 Africa-Games and Sports

14 10 Africa-Noted African

14 11 Africa- Health and Disease

14 12 Africa-Hunting and Fishing

14 13 Africa-Jurisprudence and Crime

14 14 Africa-Kinship

14 15 Africa-Literature

**Box Folders (Copy of Box 16 Continues)**

15 1 Africa-Medicine and Surgery

15 2 Africa-Mentality

15 3 Africa-Property and Inheritance

15 4 Africa-Proverbs

15 5 Africa-Secret Societies

**Box Folder (Not for Researchers Use)**

16 1 Africa- Agriculture, Methods and Products

16 2 Africa-Agriculture, Rituals

16 3 Africa- Beginning of Scientific Processes

16 4 Africa-Domestication of Animals

16 5 Africa-Dwelling, Places, Houses, etc.

16 6 Africa-Eminent Africans

16 7 Africa-Food

16 8 Africa-Games

16 9 Africa-Games and Sports

16 10 Africa-Noted African

16 11 Africa- Health and Disease

16 12 Africa-Hunting and Fishing

16 13 Africa-Jurisprudence and Crime

16 14 Africa-Kinship

16 15 Africa-Literature

16 16 Africa-Medicine and Surgery

16 17 Africa-Mentality

16 18 Africa-Property and Inheritance

16 19 Africa-Proverbs

16 20 Africa-Secret Societies

**Box Folder (Copy of Box 18)**

17 1 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Other Animals)

17 2 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Various Species of Antelope)

17 3 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Birds)

17 4 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Crocodile)

17 5 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Hare)

17 6 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Spiders)

17 7 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Supernatural Things)

17 8 Africa-Folklore (Origin of Things)

**Box Folder (Not for Researchers Use)**

18 1 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Other Animals)

18 2 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Various Species of Antelope)

18 3 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Birds)

18 4 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Crocodile)

18 5 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Hare)

18 6 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Spiders)

18 7 Africa-Folklore (Stories About Supernatural Things)

18 8 Africa-Folklore (Origin of Things)

**Box Folder (Copy of Box 20)**

19 1 Africa-Folklore (Stories Concerning Future Life)

19 2 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Demons, Witchcraft)

19 3 Africa-Folklore (Historical Stories)

19 4 Africa-Folklore (Opinions of by Different Writers)

19 5 Africa-Folklore (Opinions About)

19 6 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Transformations, etc.)

**Box Folder (Not for Researchers Use)**

20 1 Africa-Folklore (Stories Concerning Future Life)

20 2 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Demons, Witchcraft)

20 3 Africa-Folklore (Historical Stories)

20 4 Africa-Folklore (Opinions of by Different Writers)

20 5 Africa-Folklore (Opinions About)

20 6 Africa-Folklore (Stories of Transformations, etc.)

**Series III (Boxes 21-23) Correspondence and Reports Related to African American**

**Inventors**

**Box Folder**

21 1 Inventions by Negros

21 2 Inventions and Inventors

21 3 Copy of Specification and Claim of Zero W. Webb Printing Device for

Photographers

21 4 Unites States Patent Office John E. McWorter-Flying Machine 1914

21 5 United States Patent Office, Bishop Montgomery Fish Scale Patent, Feb. 11, 1919

21 6 Black Inventors of America by McKinley Burt, Jr., 1969

21 7 Leonard Julien, Sr., Musician Inventor

21 8 Literature Citing Negro Inventors and Patentees

21 9 Newspaper Clippings Inventors 1930s

21 10 Newspaper Clippings 1940s

21 11 Black Achievers Coloring Book, 1983

21 12 Correspondences Relating to Inventions

**Box Folder (Copy of Box 23)**

22 1 Inventions 1910-1919

22 2 Inventions 1920-1929

22 3 Inventions 1930-1939

22 4 Inventions 1940-1949

22 5 Inventions 1950-1959

22 6 Inventions 1960-1969

**Box Folder (Not For researchers Use)**

23 1 Inventions 1910-1919

23 2 Inventions 1920-1929

23 3 Inventions 1930-1939

23 4 Inventions 1940-1949

23 5 Inventions 1950-1959

23 6 Inventions 1960-1969