Guide to the Papers of

W. E. B. Du Bois

Prepared by Asia K. Bender, 2022

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Du Bois, W. E. B. (1868-1963)

**Title:** Papers of W. E. B. Du Bois

**Dates:** 1868-1963

**Quantity:** 6.0 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** W. E. B. Du Bois was a historian, scholar, author, sociologist, and Civil and Pan-Africanist rights activist. The founder of the Niagara Movement and one of the founders of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He was the founder and editor of Crisis Magazine and Phylon. Professor of Sociology at Atlanta University.

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, 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 that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

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.

**Subjects:**

Booker T. Washington

 National Association of Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

 Niagara Movement

Crisis Magazine

Phylon Magazine

Atlanta University

**Persons:**

W. E. B. Du Bois, Ph.D.

**Biography**

William Edward Burghardt Du Bois was born February 23rd, 1868, to Alfred and Mary Silvina (Burghardt) Du Bois in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. He received his bachelor's degree from Fisk University (1885-1888). Then, after receiving a fellowship at Harvard University, he received his master's degree. Du Bois completed a fellowship and extensive work through a study abroad program at the University of Berlin (1892-1894). He became the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1895.

In 1903, Du Bois published his famous book *The Souls of Black Folk*. This book was very pioneering because it went against principles established by prominent leader Booker T. Washington regarding the views of race and the meaning of being black. In addition, he founded the Niagara Movement in 1905, which clashed with Washington’s ideologies. Du Bois is notably known for co-establishing the National Association of Advancement of Colored People on February 12, 1909. Additionally, he was editor and founder of the prominent *The Crisis* magazine (1910). This quarterly magazine was pivotal in publishing topics such as civil rights, politics, culture and history, and other important news.

Du Bois was very devoted to the advocacy of Pan-Africanism. He led the First Pan-African Conference in London (1900) and, between 1919 and 1927, engineered four Pan-African Congresses. However, after conflicting views on the mission of the NAACP and *The Crisis*, he resigned from editorship (1934). Dr. Du Bois returned to Atlanta University as a professor and founded *Phylon* magazine (1940) there. In addition, he published two sought-after books*, Black Reconstruction: An Essay Toward a History of the Part Which Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880* (1945), and *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay Toward an Autobiography of Race Concept* in (1940).

By 1961, Du Bois left the United States for Ghana to soon become a citizen there. He continued his activism there and worked on Encyclopedia Africana, which was never completed.

One day before Dr. Martin Luther King Jr delivered the “I have a Dream” speech, Du Bois died in Accra, Ghana, at the age of 95 on August 27, 1963.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of W. E. B Du Bois consist of documents spanning from 1868-1988 and include personal and business correspondence, bibliographies, addresses, and published books from Du Bois during his career. Published articles and reporters that DuBois published from The Crisis Magazine and the NAACP. Includes poems, writings, books, articles, and profiles about DuBois from various authors. Also, it contains correspondence between Booker T. Washington and Albert Hart about W.E.B Du Bois and a press release from Hampton Institute about a speaking engagement with civil rights activist Dr. Channing Tobias and Dr. Du Bois.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**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**

**Box Folder**

1 1 [The Conservation of Races] by W. E. B Dubois (1897)

1 2 Addresses By Du Bois

1 3 Memoriam of W. E. B Du Bois

1 4 Correspondence to Booker T. Washington (1900)

1 5 The Crisis [Death of Booker T. Washington] by W. E. B Du Bois (December

1915)

1 6 [The Dilemma of the Negro] by W. E. B Du Bois (October 1924)

1 7 Corresponding Between Booker T. Washington and Albert Hart about W. E. B

Du Bois (1899)

1 8 Newspaper Articles – Biography of W. E. B. Du Bois

1 9 [Negros] address by Du Bois

1 10 Bibliography of the Contributions of Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois (1931-1959)

1 11 Letter from W. E. B Du Bois to Mr. R.C Bruce (May 1902)

1 12 The Campus Digest, Tuskegee Institute, [Du Bois to Lecture Here on March 7]

 (February 1937)

1 13 W. E. B Du Bois Memorial Issue *Freedomways* Vol 5, No 1, (Winter, 1965)

1 14 Harvard Journal of Negro Affairs [W. E. B. Du Bois] by Herbert Aptheker Vol. 1

Num. 1 (1965)

1 15 [A Pageant in Seven Decades] by W. E. B Du Bois (1865-1938)

1 16 [Disenfranchisement of Colored Americans in the President Election of 1920]

1 17 Profile of W. E. B. Du Bois

1 18 [W. E. B. Du Bois – The Historian] by Jessie P. Guzman

1 19 [William E. B. Du Bois Took a Different Path by Webb Garrison ](November

 1988)

1 20 [Wings for God’s Chillun- The Story of Burghardt Du Bois] (August 1929)

**Box Folder**

2 1 [A Syllabus for the Study of Selective Writings] by W. E. B. Du Bois

2 2 Poems about W. E. B. Du Bois

2 3 Booklets about W. E. B Du Bois

2 4 Newspaper Clippings and Articles About W. E. B. Du Bois

2 5 [Race, Economic and Public Policy with Reflections on W. E. B. Du Bois]

2 6 The Moon Illustrated Weekly

2 7 The L’s of Black Folk

2 8 The Tuskegee Student

2 9 Dictionary of American Negro Biography

2 10 [Booker T and W. E. B] by Dudley Randall (1914- )

2 11 Letters from William Edward Burghardt Du Bois

2 12 Newspaper Clippings – W. E. B. Du Bois

2 13 W. E. B Du Bois Bibliography (1883-1909)