Early Civil Rights Activism:

80 items, 1917-1953

The modern Civil Rights Movement is often considered to have begun in 1954 with the Supreme Court case of Brown v. Board of Education. In the decades leading up to this case, however, devoted activists had been working on campaigns against lynching, demanding voting rights, educational opportunities, and housing, struggling for equality in the military during World War II, and drawing attention to notable legal cases that tested the nation’s courts in all of these arenas. This group of pamphlets and ephemera from the early stages of the modern Civil Rights Movement includes many rare and unrecorded items collected by Maurice Rovner, a Buffalo, NY schoolteacher, between the 1930s and the 1950s. (See provenance note at end).

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1. Abolish slums! Build decent homes in 5th Ward! [handbill]. Buffalo, NY: Negro Economic Association, [1936]. 8.5x11 inch handbill with cartoon of a man sitting in a dilapidated apartment (A sign on the wall says "A man's home is his castle," but with rent bill in hand, he replies "Says you!"). Mild toning, "Buffalo, 1936" neatly penned in bottom right corner, small corner chip. (#277076) $400.00

"The program of the Negro Economic Association calls for an immediate tearing-down of the dilapidated shacks that are germ-ridden with cockroaches, bedbugs, and rats! The City Government must devise ways and means of financing such a program... But it must NOT do it by taxing the small home-owner, workers and unemployed. Tax those who can afford to pay!" The president of the Association is listed as Anna Harris.


Magazine from Mary McLeod Bethune's organization, highlighting wartime contributions and suggesting, in various ways, that the efforts of African American women prove their right to complete and equal integration into American life. Includes such features as an article about the first Black nurses sent overseas, a message from first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, a piece by Pauline Redmon Coggs about wartime challenges to the Black community and their disproportionate toll on women, and much more.
3. After the war? Atlanta: Southern Regional Council, [1945]. Four-panel brochure, year penciled at bottom of the rear panel, mild crease at the bottom. (#276948) SOLD

"Do you remember what happened after World War I? There was an increase in lynching, there were race riots, and there were organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan which promoted and exploited racial intolerance... In February, 1945, the Southern Regional Council called together a small group of women religious leaders to discuss race relations in the post-war period. These women agreed upon a program of action for interracial peace and justice. This leaflet represents their program and other suggestions for constructive social action." Includes suggestions for ensuring that the GI Bill is applied fairly and that local Veterans' groups allow full participation regardless of ethnicity.

4. Answer the critics of F.E.P.C. Try this quiz at home [cover title, caption title -] Arguments most frequently used for and against Federal permanent FEPC legislation. Washington, D.C : National Council for a Permanent F.E.P.C., [1945]. 15p., illustrated wraps, 6x9 inches, very good condition, fundraising leaflet for the group by Dorothy Norman laid in. (#168168) SOLD

Pamphlet supporting S-101 and H.R. 2232, laws intended to make the wartime Fair Employment Practice Committee legislation (prohibiting discrimination against Black and other minority workers) permanent. Lists common objections to the law ("Conflicts and even race riots might result") and rebuts them. The National Council had been established by A. Philip Randolph.


On the case of a local history teacher, May Quinn, who told her students "The Negroes were happy before they knew about racial discrimination. Now that they know are they any happier?" School superintendent William Jansen said that she showed poor judgment, but he failed to take serious disciplinary steps. The brochure notes that Quinn also had a history of anti-Semitic statements in the classroom, and calls for a full hearing on her case. Brooklyn-raised singer Lena Horne is quoted as saying "What of the waste of lives and hopes and dreams simply because of the refusal of opportunity?" Cites famous Brooklyn residents who fought against bigotry, including Walt Whitman, Henry Ward Beecher, and Jewish abolitionist Ernestine L. Rose. To the question, "Is bigotry the 'tree that grows in Brooklyn'," Jackie Robinson is quoted as saying "NO!"
6. Call for National Negro Congress. Washington: National Negro Congress, [1935]. Four-panel brochure, fold-creased with date penned in corner and crossed out, some foxing; cover portrait of Frederick Douglass. (#277182) **SOLD**

Announcement of the Congress planned for Chicago in February, 1936, welcoming not only Black organizations and individuals, but "All organizations and persons of whatever race, who are willing to fight for economic and social justice for Negroes." Although many NNC leaders were affiliated with the Communist Party, the list of sponsors includes many other prominent Black leaders.

7. Civil Rights Congress charges violence and terror now a pattern of government in statement on Peekskill outbreak [press release]. New York: Civil Rights Congress, 1949. Two mimeographed 8.5x14 inch sheets stapled at the upper left; minor handling, a couple of names underlined in red pencil. (#277275) $175.00

On official complicity in the Peekskill Riots. "For the second time in eight days, responsible officials - among them Governor Dewey, Westchester District Attorney George M. Fanelli and local police - cooperated with Klan and fascist elements in committing personal and property injury against peaceful citizens who came to hear Paul Robeson sing on September 4th..."

8. Color-line [first two issues]. Mt. Vernon, NY: Color-line, 1946. Vol. 1, nos. 1 and 2 of the newsletter; the first is 4 pages, 8.5x11 inches, toned, with "Sample copy" stamped at the top; the second is 6 pages, folded from a single sheet, slightly smaller. (#277213) $100.00

Discussion of efforts to foster interracial cooperation, including in the labor movement, and to defeat oppressive legislation. First issue cites as its Hero of the Month "Irene Morgan, whose refusal on July 16, 1944 to give up her seat in a bus in Virginia has resulted in Supreme Court outlawing of segregation in bus interstate travel."

9. Congress Vue. Vol. 1, no. 1 (April, 1943) [together with vol. 2 no. 3 (June 1944), under the new spelling 'Congress View']. New York: National Negro Congress, 1943. 8p. each, 8.5x11 inch newsletters, very good. (#277211) $200.00

Cover story of the first issue is on the Eastern Seaboard Conference called by the Congress, with a program included. The latter issue has a piece by John Pittman on "The Negro press and America's future." Many NNC leaders were affiliated with the Communist Party.

Lead article: "Harlem's fighting tenants' group gets results," by John Lavin, also includes an article "Jim Crow did go in San Diego" by George Lohr, and more.

11. **CORE campaign reporter** [first two issues]. Chicago: Congress of Racial Equality, 1945. Two issues of the mimeographed newsletter, 8.5x11 inches, 4 pages each, paper toned, otherwise very good. At least one more issue was published, according to the holdings of the Swarthmore Peace Collection. [#277208] $250.00. The first issue includes an article on how "Chicago's 'Black Ghetto' is breaking out through its barriers despite hostility, despite vandalism." It describes the experiences of Black residents whose houses had been set afire or vandalized when they moved into white neighborhoods. Other articles describe actions undertaken by local CORE activists, who would test whether organizations or businesses were actually following through with stated desegregation policies. For example, four members went to use a YMCA pool, and they found that Black people were still being denied. An investigation of the University of Chicago's School of Medicine found that although the application form no longer asked about race, a photo of the applicant was requested, meaning that discrimination could still be practiced through other means.

12. **CRC 15.** Campaign and activities of the Civil Rights Congress. Los Angeles: Civil Rights Congress, [1949]. Single 8.5x14 inch sheet, printed both sides, some uneven toning, horizontal fold crease, year penciled at bottom, "CP" penciled in corner (noting the group's relationship with the Communist Party). [#276979] **SOLD**

Newsletter about upcoming events, with a headline article "Free the Trenton Six!" Photo depicts Bessie Mitchell, sister of one of the Trenton Six, young Black men sentenced to death by an all-white jury for the murder of a white shopkeeper. (It later emerged that evidence had been fabricated; the medical examiner was convicted of perjury). Announces her upcoming appearances in the Los Angeles area to raise funds for their defense.
13. Cry out, America! For swift justice to end "white supremacy" murders. New York: International Labor Defense, [1946]. Four-panel brochure, approximately 8x9 inches, very good, with detachable pledge slips (not used). Penciled date of March 1946 on rear cover. (#277272) SOLD
List police killings and lynchings of Black men in South Carolina, Florida, and Alabama. "This homicidal strain of the 'white supremacy' virus has spread to Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle, New York and other places, where Negroes have been wantonly shot down by police officers, confident that no prosecutor would permit them to be punished." Calls on the Department of Justice to prosecute the officers involved.

Announcement of the Congress with interior text describing the purpose and principles of the organization. Many NNC leaders were affiliated with the Communist Party. The list of sponsors includes Langston Hughes, Harry Bridges, Rockwell Kent, Adam Clayton Powell, actor Canada Lee, and many others.

"The Interracial Club is an organization composed of men and women, regardless of race or color, dedicated to participation in the struggle for the achievement of complete democratic rights (full economic, political and social equality) for the Negro people." Argues that despite past betrayals from the major political parties, as well as the Communist Party, the Black activist must not "shun every offer of help with suspicion... Instead coldly and objectively, he must scrutinize those who say they are willing to help in the fight; examine their program and, particularly, their actions; and then, only, join together for a common aim and goal."

Rejects the "Return to Africa" ideology of Marcus Garvey, stating that "The Negro's fight is here."
16. Echoes from the National Negro Congress [handbill]. [Buffalo]: Local Sponsoring Committee of National Negro Congress, [1936]. 5.5x9 inch leaflet, toned, "1936 Buffalo" penciled in lower right corner, otherwise very good. ($277188) $100.00
Announcement of a report back from the Congress which had taken place in Chicago earlier in February, 1936.

17. Experiments in Democracy. New York: USO Division of the Young Women's Christian Association, [1944]. 80p. incl. 16p. photos, staplebound booklet, very good. ($21900) $75.00
"This pamphlet records some of the steps the USO Division of the National Board YWCA has taken toward achieving its goals of 'service to all involved in the war effort' and of setting forward Negro-white relationships in America."

18. Fight lynch law - Now. Protest rally ... [handbill]. Buffalo, NY: Buffalo Committee for Democratic Rights, 1946. 8.5x11 inch mimeographed handbill, mildly toned, otherwise very good. ($277273) $85.00
"All decent liberty-loving people have been deeply shocked and appalled at the wave of lynch-terror which is sweeping the nation. The frightful news comes from Georgia that four Negroes are lynched by a band of White hoodlums. There are numerous instances of Negroes being set upon, beaten and murdered, simply because they exercised their Constitutional Right to vote in the Primary Elections... Hitler started by attacking the Jews. In the United States the Negro is chosen as the Scaregoat. In time, other minority groups, Trade Unions, Political Parties, etc, will be terrorized and outlawed if we permit the Bilbos, Rankins and Talmadges to have their way." The issuing organization was affiliated with the Communist Party.

19. Gallup! Vigilantes! Kidnapping! Frame-up! Terror! Herndon! 20 years on the chain gang! Outgrowths of the New Deal Program!!! Hear the inside story from: Robert Minor... Angelo Herndon... Mike Walsh... [handbill]. Bronx: International Labor Defense, Bronx Section, 1935. 9x12 inch handbill, paper toned, some edge chipping, not reaching the printed portion. On the reverse is penciled "Your a rat for takin," implications unknown to your cataloger (perhaps a warning against removal). ($277207) $150.00
Announcement of an event to discuss the case of Gallup coal miners held on charges of murder, and the new Supreme Court decision on the Angelo Herndon case (presented by Herndon in person). Herndon served four years of an 18-to-20 year sentence for interracial organizing in Georgia, having been convicted of insurrection. He was briefly released, this leaflet having been issued during that period, but had to return to prison in 1936. After his ultimate release in 1937, and the Supreme Court's overturning of his case, he continued his activism with the Communist Party and worked on numerous local cases involving discrimination.
20. Georgia "justice": the Ingram case. New York: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, [1948?]. 8p. pamphlet, some foxing and mild handling wear. (#276959) SOLD
On the case of a family of African American sharecroppers from Georgia. States that Rosa Lee Ingram, a widow, had crossed into the property of a white neighbor to retrieve wayward livestock; the neighbor, John Stratford, hit her with the butt of his shotgun. She called to her sons for help, and they brought farm implements to defend their mother; in the resulting scuffle Stratford was hit on the head and died from his injuries. In a one-day trial by an all-white jury, Ingram and two of her sons were sentenced to die by electric chair. Although the death sentence was commuted, it was not until 1959 that the imprisoned family members were granted parole.

21. [Group of 13 items from the Lynn Committee to Abolish Segregation in the Armed Forces and the National Committee to Abolish Segregation in the Armed Services]. New York: the Committees, 1944-1945. Thirteen press releases and packets, all but one from the Lynn Committee, one from the National Committee (led by A. Philip Randolph, a continuation of the Lynn Committee, using the same address on W. 46 Street). Aside from a printed questionnaire to be sent to political candidates asking their position on segregation (stapled together with two additional press releases), the rest are mimeographed press releases, 8.5x11 or 8.5x14 inches. Most have the date of receipt penciled at the bottom but are otherwise very good despite some toning. One is quite worn and unevenly toned. (#277029) $2,500.00
Winfred Lynn, a Long Island gardener and brother of noted Civil Rights lawyer Conrad Lynn, was drafted in 1942 but said he would only serve in an unsegregated unit. The resulting legal challenge was a major steppingstone in the desegregation of the American military. The 1943 National Citizens Committee for Winfred Lynn became the broader Lynn Committee, taking on other instances of discrimination and segregation of African American women and men in uniform. The press releases in this group include updates on 19 Seabees who had been discharged for complaining of racism at their Caribbean base; an item about soldiers stationed at the Neuropsychiatric Hospital at Northport, Long Island (where Senator Rankin claimed that Black soldiers were abusing white patients); updates on the Lynn case, and an announcement of the national organization led by A. Philip Randolph.
22. A guide for those who would discover the civil rights practices of their community. New York: National Intercollegiate Christian Council. National Commission on Ethnic Minorities, [1937?]. 8p., 8.5x11 inch mimeographed sheets stapled at left, very good. "1945" is penciled on the cover as the date it was obtained, but the date 12/10/37 appears at the end of the text. OCLC lists an edition attributed to 1941. (#277277) SOLD
Outlines methods for student activists in particular to investigate practices where they live, such as educational and employment opportunities for African Americans, jury service, and voting rights. Discusses ways to corral this evidence and report findings.

23. The Harlem Pointer to jobs, security, civil rights and peace. Vol. 1 no. 1 (August 3, 1940). New York: Communist Party USA, Harlem Section, 1940. 4p. tabloid newspaper format, horizontal fold crease, paper toned, minor edge chipping at the fold. Newspaper. (#276954) SOLD
Publication associated with the presidential campaign of Earl Browder and James W. Ford. Masthead quote from Ford says "Vote for no party in the North which refuses to fight for the Negro's right to vote in the South." Includes an article by Angelo Herndon about an appeal by attorney Hope Stevens on behalf of West Indians of Harlem, as well as more general Communist campaign news.

24. Help build unity of Negro and White professionals and students... Inter-racial dance [handbill]. New York: American Vanguard, 1935. 8.5x11 inch handbill, toned, a couple of tiny edge chips. (#277198) $300.00
"We are launching a new organization based on the common trade interests of all negro and White professionals and students. We stand for full equality for the Negro people, and we particularly hope to combat all defense of oppression and segregation in cultural and professional spheres. We believe that full equality of the Negro people cannot be reached by the submissiveness and inactivity of the methods of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, but by bolder, more effective and more strategic methods." States that the group plans to begin publishing a magazine; the dance is a fundraiser featuring numbers from the Juilliard String Quartet and a Harlem jazz band.
25. If Bethlehem had been Birmingham... Chicago: Chicago Urban League, [1946]. [8p.] staplebound booklet, 4x6.25 inches, mild toning along edge of front cover, year penciled at bottom of rear cover, otherwise very good. Three woodcut-style illustrations, unsigned. (#277052) SOLD

A retelling of the story of Jesus, in which Mary and Joseph are cotton pickers in Alabama. The Black Christ grows up and travels America preaching racial brotherhood, while white preachers and government leaders such as Bilbo and Eastland mobilize racist hordes to oppose him. Eventually he retreats to Birmingham, where an integrated crowd gathers to hear his message, but the mob tracks him down. Their leader shouts, "Do you expect salvation to come through one like him? Look at him! He's a NIGGER! He's an imposter and a blasphemous one at that. Listen here, all this coon wants is equality - and to a coon that means a white woman... This is America! Down here we've solved the race problem and these Negroes have got to be kept in their place!" The Black Christ is dragged out of the church and lynched, an illustration depicts him hanging from a noose. Concludes, "There are American Christians who would take part in such a demonstration of hate and fiendishness. And there are other Christians who, in the face of the fury of their fellow men, would lift neither finger nor voice to prevent such an injustice from being done... What is your church willing to do? What is your preacher willing to do? What are YOU willing to do?"


Cites the police killing of John Derrick in New York, and the court-martial of Lt. Leon Gilbert and other Black soldiers in Korea for refusing orders that they said would have been fatal without ample ammunition.
27. Join the Washington. July 1st, 1941. New York: National Negro Congress, 1941. Four-panel brochure, very good, 5.5x8.5 inches. Date stamp of June 23, 1941 at bottom of rear panel. (#277091) SOLD

Promotional brochure for the first March on Washington for Civil Rights, conceived by A. Philip Randolph as a Black-led march to protest segregation, demand equality of opportunity on the job market, to pass an anti-lynching bill, and to keep the US out of World War II. One week before the march was to take place, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, establishing the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC). The march was canceled, but in the following years the March on Washington Movement continued to hold rallies to protest the haphazard and incomplete movement towards desegregation.

28. Lynching Northern Style. New York: Civil Rights Congress, [1949?]. 6p., including cover; 8.5x14 inch sheets stapled at the top; creased from folding, some toning to cover sheet as well as minor rust marks from contact with staples. "Trenton Six case" penciled at top of front cover, "1949-1950" penciled at bottom. Paul Robeson is listed as chair of the CRC. (#277075) $200.00. The Trenton Six were young Black men sentenced to death by an all-white jury for the murder of a white shopkeeper. (It later emerged that evidence had been fabricated; the medical examiner was convicted of perjury).

29. Memorandum: Justice Department fails to prosecute violations of US peonage statutes! Chicago: Abolish Peonage Committee., [1940?]. 9p., 8.5x14 inch mimeographed sheets stapled at upper left corner; red pencil markings around "Memorandum," and "ILD" penciled after the address of the issuing organization, indicating its relationship to International Labor Defense. (#277267) $500.00

"For more than sixteen months the United States Department of Justice has refused to prosecute W.T. Cunningham of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, who is guilty of many crimes, and among them - Peonage and Slavery... According to the White Georgia Baptist Convention of 1939, more people are effected (sic) by peonage - debt slavery - than were held as slaves before the 'War Between the States' ... We have no other course than to accuse Attorney General Robert Jackson and the present Administration of protecting the criminal slaveholders and peonage operators of the South - deciding in favor the poll-tax, pro-lynch
politicians and businessmen; deciding against the people and democracy." Includes quotes from affidavits by farmers held as effective prisoners by Cunningham, describing his methods of claiming never-ending debt obligations, and having resisters beaten or put on chain gangs. Documents the government's failure to act against Cunningham, listing specific meetings and individuals who failed to act. In May of 1941 the Chicago Federal Court finally charged Cunningham.

30. The mob still rides; a review of the lynching record, 1931-1935. Atlanta: Commission on Interracial Cooperation, 1936. 24p., staplebound pamphlet, very good; second printing. (#45803) SOLD

31. Mr. Employer, I can run your machines! New York: National Urban League, [1941]. [16p.] staplebound pamphlet, slightly over 4x5.25 inches, year written in corner of rear cover, otherwise very good. (#276934) SOLD

Black and white photos with text urging employers to overcome racial prejudice and hire Black men and women for skilled positions.

32. The Negro Cultural Committee presents "The Bourbons Got the Blues" by Carlton Moss & Dorothy Hailpurn. A social revue featuring Georgia Burke, Duke Ellington, Juanita Hall and choir, Rex Ingram, Arthur Wilson, Frank Wilson. "Filibuster," a satiric ballet directed by Miriam Blecker and Anna Sokolow... [handbill]. New York: Negro National Congress, [1938]. 8.5x11 inch handbill promoting the fundraising performance to benefit the NNC, "NY 1938" penned in lower right corner, mild toning to blue stock, otherwise very good. (#277268) $350.00

A review in the May 16, 1938 issue of Time described this play as "a loose-limbed propagandist revue dramatizing the Negro's long struggle against oppression." The dour review went on to complain that "Besides using a bare stage, the show reduced most of its sketches to dry monologue: a six-scene, one-man drama describing the abortive South Carolina slave insurrection of 1822 led by Denmark Vesey; a two-scene, one-woman picture of The Bronx's notorious Slave Market where Negro domestic workers, standing on street corners, sell their labor at starvation wages; a long, florid speech delivered in 1852 by famed Negro Abolitionist Frederick Douglass (Rex Ingram)."
33. Negro Freedom Rally... Noted speakers. Great artists. And a colorful pageant: "New World a-coming,... Featuring Duke Ellington and Pearl Primus [handbill]. New York: Negro Labor Victory Committee; Peoples Committee, [1944]. 8.5x11 inch handbill printed in two colors; year penciled at lower right corner, some toning, otherwise very good. Design shows GIs within view of Freedom on the horizon, but still held back by barbed wire labeled "Hitlerism, Jim Crow, Anti-Semitism." (#277032) SOLD

The Negro Labor Victory Committee brought together unionists from the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and the Railroad Brotherhoods. It advocated equality within organized labor, government, and the Armed Forces. The pageant featured at this rally was written and directed by Owen Dodson.

Early CORE brochure that is illustrated with pictures of desegregating a St. Louis lunch counter and a "jimcrow motion-picture theater," and documented the establishment of an integrated barber shop on Pennsylvania State University campus. Done before George M. Houser left as Executive Director.

35. The Plain Truth. Vol 1, no. 1 (October 1930). Chicago: [Republican Party], 1930. 15p., 8.5x10.75 inch magazine on newsprint, paper toned, some chipping at edge (not affecting text). (#276952) SOLD

A pro-Republican publication edited by Jennie Lawrence and Morris Lewis, drawing attention to the racist speeches of local Democratic politicians such as Michael Igoe, James Hamilton Lewis, and Francis X. Busch. Argues that there is no difference between the attitudes of northern and southern Democrats, and urges "Colored citizens - protect yourselves" by voting the straight GOP ticket. This publication, and Jennie Lawrence's background, are discussed briefly in Lisa G. Materson's "For the Freedom of Her Race: Black Women and Electoral Politics in Illinois, 1877-1932," pp. 222-223. Materson suggests that, although this publication was affiliated with the Republican machine in Chicago, Lawrence's distrust of Democrats, as a Black woman, was sincere.


Convened in response to the near-riot in Harlem that August, the Conference – co-chaired by Marian Anderson - sought to address "the numerous cases of intolerance and violence against individual Negroes, Jews, Spanish speaking peoples and other minority groups." - p. 4.
37. School Money in Black and White. Chicago: Published by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, [1935-?]. [24p.] staplebound booklet, 8.5x6.75 inches, very good. (#276997) SOLD

Based on statistics compiled as of 1934 by the Committee on Finance of the National Conference on Fundamental Problems in the Education of Negroes, illustrated with cartoons by William Edouard Scott. Highlights disparities in educational funding.

38. Scottsboro / ILD Fund! / 5c [stamp]. [New York]: [International Labor Defense], [193-?]. Fundraising stamp, called a "cinderella" in philatelic jargon. Stamp size is roughly 7/8x1 inch; very good. Issued by the ILD to raise money for the defense of the Scottsboro Boys in Alabama. (#276936) SOLD

39. Speed defense production, open the gates! New York: National Urban League, [1942]. 15p. staplebound pamphlet, 4x5.25 inches, year written in corner inside front cover, otherwise very good. (#277011) SOLD

Cartoons and text urging employers to overcome racial prejudice and hire Black men and women to aid in wartime industries.

40. Suppose they were YOURS... New York: Ingram Children's Education and Welfare Fund, International Workers Order, [1948]. Four-panel brochure, year penned in corner of rear panel, otherwise very good. (#277000) $100.00

Seeks financial support for the children of an African American sharecropper who was in prison. Rosa Lee Ingram, a widow, had crossed into the property of a white neighbor to retrieve wayward livestock; the neighbor, John Stratford, hit her with the butt of his shotgun. She called to her sons for help, and they brought farm implements to defend their mother; in the resulting scuffle Stratford was hit on the head and died from his injuries. In a one-day trial by an all-white jury, Ingram and two of her sons were sentenced to die by electric chair. Although the death sentence was commuted, it was not until 1959 that the imprisoned family members were granted parole.
41. Voting restrictions in the 13 southern states. Atlanta: Committee of Editors and Writers of the South, 1944. 24p., staplebound pamphlet, very good. The Committee members included African American journalists. (#32666) SOLD

42. Workers! Smash lynching! New York: American Negro Labor Congress, [1930]. Four-panel brochure, 8.5x11 inches, very good, with two-color graphic of a grisly lynching scene. (#277045) $1,000.00
Describes recent lynching cases, drawing links to class oppression. "Negro and White Workers! Organize Workers' Defense Groups! Defend the Negro Masses! Smash the Lynching Terror of the Bosses!" States that "The Southern Negro masses exist in a veritable hell" of both racial and economic oppression. Urges the reader to support the upcoming National Convention in St. Louis. The Texas-born activist Fort-Whiteman (first African American to attend a Comintern training school in the Soviet Union) was the first national organizer of the American Negro Labor Congress, a successor organization to the African Blood Brotherhood.
43. Abner, Willoughby. [Four packets from the Hickman Defense Committee, about the case of a Black steelworker who shot his abusive landlord after his apartment burned and his children died]. Chicago: Hickman Defense Committee, 1947. Four mimeographed packets, each with a cover sheet printed on Defense Committee letterhead, 8.5x11 or 8.5x14 inches. In cases where the author is identified, it is Abner, Chairman of the Committee. The first packet, from September 1947, includes a cover letter introducing the case, a sample Resolution supporting the defense of Hickman, a two-page press release dated August 30, and three pages of summarized facts about the case. The next packet, dated December 3, summarizes the trial that ended with a hung jury. The other packets are a three-page statement by the committee upon Hickman's release, and a three-page open letter to all organizations and individuals who supported the campaign. (#277242) SOLD

Hickman, a Black Chicago steelworker, had great difficulty finding housing because of his small children. A landlord named David Coleman rented him an attic, but it lacked gas, electricity, or running water. Coleman then tried to evict the family so that he could renovate the building to charge higher rent. Witnesses at the trial said that he had threatened to burn them out. Eventually, the apartment was indeed consumed by a fire, in which four of Hickman's children died. Six months later, Hickman tracked down his former landlord and shot him.

The Defense Committee saw its role as not only to gain freedom for Hickman, but "to indict the powers that be for crimes against the people, in refusing to provide adequate and safe housing, and in herding the Negro people into Nazi-like ghettos that breed disease, misery and death." (From the statement upon Hickman's release, page three). The Advisory Board included Frank Annunzio, Talulah Bankhead, A.J. Muste, Carl Reiner, and many others.
44. Bass, Charlotta; W.E.B. Du Bois; Paul Robeson, et al. [Three items related to the libel case against Joseph Sachs, organizer of non-white workers in the Canal Zone]. New York: Committee to End the Jim Crow 'Silver-Gold' System in the Panama Canal Zone; United Public Workers of America, CIO, 1948. Three items stapled together, with "Case of Joseph Sachs" written in blue pencil on the top sheet. Includes a two-page, 8.5x11 inch fundraising appeal in the names of Charlotta Bass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Paul Robeson, and Charles P. Howard with their facsimile signatures, issued on letterhead of the Committee; a leaflet reprinting a column by Harold L. Ickes of the New York Post about the case, and a three-page mimeographed 8.5x14 inch pamphlet from the UPW International Office, "Nine months at hard labor for fighting Jim Crow: the case of Joseph Sachs." The latter item is mildly crinkled and edgeworn at the bottom. (#276967) $500.00

Workers in the Canal Zone were categorized as Gold (white) or Silver (Black, native Panamanian, and West Indian) - so named because of the original system of payment, in gold or silver coin. The United Public Workers of America, affiliated with the CIO, challenged this system by demanding equal treatment for "Silver" workers, including abolishing segregated facilities and demanding equal pay. The English-language press in Panama began to publish articles intended to weaken the union, including accusations of embezzlement against certain officers, including Joseph Sachs. Sachs responded with a radio speech defending himself and the union, including a challenge to District Attorney Daniel E. McGrath "either to put up or shut up" if he couldn't provide evidence of the alleged graft. He also accused the DA of misconduct, which led the DA to press libel charges against Sachs. The jury in the case was entirely composed of white "Gold" workers, and the trial featured racist and anti-Semitic imprecations against the union, with the prosecutor alleging they were communists. Sachs was found guilty of libel and sentenced to hard labor. The UPWA pamphlet included here states that the President has the authority to end segregation and union-busting, concluding that "Panama offers an opportunity for establishing the sincerity of the Civil Rights program."

45. Browder, Earl; James W. Ford. Negro rights must be granted now! - Communists declare. New York: Communist Party, [1942]. Single sheet folded to make 6-panel brochure, 4x9 inches, rear panel partly toned with date of July 1942 rubberstamped at bottom, otherwise very good. (#138320) $75.00

Speeches by Browder and Ford at an Independence Day rally in Madison Square Garden; Ford's speech discusses the execution of Odell Walker, a sharecropper executed for killing his white landlord.
46. Brownlee, Fred L.; Ruth A. Morton. Shackled Still. New York: [Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches], [1942]. 22p. staplebound booklet, very good, frontispiece portrait of Charles S. Johnson, to whom the booklet is dedicated. (#277012) $100.00
Reprint of Brownlee and Morton's "Toward the elimination of American racism," part of the biennial report of the American Missionary Association Division of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches for 1940-1942.

47. Buffalo Council, National Negro Congress. Stop the shame of America! Join the fight to pass the Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynch Bill! [handbill]. Buffalo, NY: the Council, [1938]. 8.5x11 inch mimeographed leaflet, year penned neatly under the date, very good. Stark artwork depicts a man who has been lynched. (#277216) $1,000.00
"The disgraceful filibuster in the US Senate has temporarily side-tracked the Anti-Lynch Bill from being acted upon. These deliberate Hooligan tactics of part of these law makers make all decent Americans blush with shame!"
Announces an event featuring reports from four local activists who attended a protest in Washington DC organized by the National Negro Congress.
48. Cobb, W. Montague. Medical care and the plight of the Negro. New York: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 1947. 38p., staplebound pamphlet, very good condition, 5.5x8.5 inches. Author was an African American doctor, anthropologist and civil rights activist. (#20524) $95.00

49. [Coleman, Festus]. [Eight leaflets from the Coleman Defense Committee]. San Francisco: Coleman Defense Committee; Coleman Defense Coordinating Committee, 1942-1943. Group of leaflets, mostly single sheets, including seven mimeographed on onionskin paper, and one 8.5x11 inch printed letter on Coordinating Committee letterhead. Several of the onionskin fliers are toned with minor edgewear, one has brown paper tape reinforcing a staple. (#276994) SOLD
Coleman, an African American WPA worker originally from Louisiana, was convicted of rape and robbery by an all-white jury. The Committee called Coleman's case 'California's Scottsboro.' These fliers, mostly dated to late 1942, provide updates on the quest for a new trial, cite endorsements (such as by prizefighter Henry Armstrong), and solicit donations to keep up the fight. Coleman was ultimately paroled in 1951.

50. Committee for Justice in the Milton Case of the Civil Rights Congress. The pattern of terror spreads [together with fundraising appeal letter]. New York: the Committee, 1948. Four-panel brochure, cover with photomontage of lynchings and police violence; folded vertically. Also included is a mimeographed letter on printed letterhead, signed by secretary Dorothy Langston, asking for funds to promote knowledge of the case. (#277278) SOLD
On the police slaying of a black father outside his home in Brooklyn after leaving a bar where he and several friends got into an altercation with a bartender who didn't want to serve Black customers. This case was one of the Civil Rights Congress' attempts to expose the racism of law enforcement in northern cities. "Police brutality must be stopped NOW, before it spreads like the Nazi plague."
51. Congress of Industrial Organizations. Working and fighting together; regardless of race, creed, color or national origin. Washington: CIO Committee to Abolish Racial Discrimination, 1943. 19p., staplebound pamphlet, small edge tear to front cover, otherwise very good. Cover title printed over a photograph of a multicultural repair crew (white, black, Asian) working on airplane landing gear. CIO Publication no. 85. (#99524) SOLD

52. Davis, John P. The National Negro Congress reports to the People. Washington DC: National Negro Congress, 1940. 14p., mimeographed 8.5x11 inch sheets stapled at corner, mild toning, very good. (#277274) $15.00

“This report was given Saturday, April 27, 1940, at the United States Department of Labor Auditorium before 1,285 delegates to the Third National Negro Congress..." Lists the group's accomplishments, such as pushing for equality on the job and in labor unions, a claimed reduction in police brutality in Washington DC, national protests against the film "Gone With the Wind," the retraction of racist textbooks, etc; then lays out future goals, such as addressing unemployment, fighting for the right to vote in the South, and banning lynching.

53. Dickerson, Earl B. Equal civil rights. Chicago: The Chicago Defender, [1939?]. 4-page leaflet, small corner crease, paper toned, "1939?" penciled in corner of rear panel, otherwise very good. (#95503) SOLD

Dickerson, president of the Cook County Bar Association and a Chicago alderman, argues for the enforcement of the Illinois Civil Rights Act of 1885. The author was the first African American Illinois Assistant Attorney General, appointed in 1933; the University of Chicago's Black Law Students Association is named for him.

54. Ford, James W. World problems of the Negro people (a refutation of George Padmore). New York: The Harlem Section of the Communist Party, 1932. 24p. staplebound pamphlet, covers toned with a small chip at the top of the front panel. Cover design depicts two men taking axes to a gallows pole marked "Lynch law." Series on Negro Problems. (#100612) SOLD On Padmore's expulsion from the International Trade Union Committee of Negro Workers, and with the CP's third-period analysis of black workers in the US, Africa and Haiti. Ford served as the Secretary of the Harlem Section of the Communist Party.
55. [Ford, James W.]. Living costs are sky-rocketing. Employers refuse Negroes jobs. Wall St. plans to capture elections. Fascist war-dogs destroy peace. How can we stop them? These are some of the burning questions that will be answered by James W. Ford... [handbill]. [Buffalo, NY]: John Brown Branch of the Communist Party, [1937]. 9x12 inch handbill, paper toned with minor edge creases, "Buffalo, 1937" penned in lower right corner, otherwise very good. (#277206) $125.00
The speaker is introduced as an "Outstanding Negro leader - twice Vice Presidential candidate of the Communist Party - Just returned from Spain and Ethiopia."

56. Fort-Whiteman, Lovett. Lovett Fort-Whiteman, national organizer of the ANLC, will speak on the American Negro Labor Congress. Wednesday, April 29th... UNIA Hall [handbill]. Milwaukee, MN: Milwaukee Committee for the Organization of the American Negro Congress, [1925]. 8.5x14 inch handbill, horizontal fold crease, splitting at the fold (starting at the R of "Negro" and extending to the right edge). Graphic depicts a burly Black worker breaking chains that stretch between the Southern US and Africa. (#277014) $750.00
The Texas-born activist Fort-Whiteman was an important figure in the early Communist Party's work with the Black community. The first African American to attend a Comintern training school in the Soviet Union in 1924, he was once labeled "the reddest of the blacks" by Time Magazine. As the first national organizer of the American Negro Labor Congress, a successor organization to the African Blood Brotherhood, he traveled to various cities addressing local audiences, announced by fliers like this. Fort-Whiteman later moved to the Soviet Union, where he felt that he could escape racism and fulfill his working class destiny; unfortunately he was caught up in the 1937 campaign against alleged Trotskyists and sentenced to hard labor in the gulag. He died of malnutrition and illness at the age of 49.

Discusses not only the schools themselves but the living conditions of local families. "Pitiable in the extreme are the wretched abodes of squalor and misery inhabited by down-trodden Negroes in the District of Columbia...." Glazier was the head of the Tenants' League, which fought the evictions of unemployed renters.


59. Independent Political Council. Some reasons why Negroes should vote the Socialist ticket. By the Independent Political Council, A. Philip Randolph, President; Chandler Owen, Executive Secretary. New York: the Council, [1917]. Four-panel brochure, 6.25x9.5 inches, minor toning, otherwise very good. ([#277038]) $500.00

Issued during the mayoral campaign of the Socialist Party candidate Morris Hillquit (in which he won 22% of the citywide vote, a high point for Socialist politics in New York). In addition to economic reasons, such as a proposal for non-profit produce markets and public ownership of utilities, the text notes that the Socialist Party deserves the reader's vote because it advocates Black equality in the labor market and the social service exams, it advocates a "more efficient
police system which will use more brains than billies; because this will protect Negroes from ruthless assaults by policemen," etc. A. Philip Randolph went on to become a major transitional figure in the development of the Civil Rights Movement.

60. Independent Political Council of Harlem. Who shall be Mayor? Hillquit, Hylan, Bennett, Mitchel - Which for the Negroes? New York: the Council, [1917]. Four-panel brochure, 6.25x9.5 inches, paper toned and fragile; edges rather chipped but text still complete. ($277039) $275.00

Issued during the mayoral campaign of the Socialist Party candidate Morris Hillquit (in which he won 22% of the citywide vote, a high point for Socialist politics in New York). The text notes that the Socialist Party deserves the reader's vote because it advocates Black equality in the labor market, it refuses to abide segregation even in the Southern states ("In Oklahoma, the Socialist Party combined with the Negroes and defeated the Grandfather Disenfranchisement clause"); also notes that "The Socialist Party condemned the riots and lynching of Negroes in editorials, special articles and cartoons, and it repudiated Samuel Gompers" [for his refusal to condemn the East St. Louis riots]. By contrast, outlines the segregationist and racist history of other candidates. States that Hillquit, who was Jewish, "Understands the problems of an oppressed people and has always been true to their cause." Also argues that a vote for Socialists is a vote to "save our boys from the bloody fields of France." The Independent Political Council was headed by A. Philip Randolph, who went on to become a major transitional figure in the development of the Civil Rights Movement.

61. [Jones, Claudia, et al.]. For democracy and victory! Protest rally! Against discrimination in industry! [handbill]. Buffalo, NY: Frederick Douglass Club, Young Communist League, [1941]. 8.5x11 inch leaflet, small portrait of Jones, one of the speakers (along with Leroy Peterson and Emanuel J. Fried); small dark rectangles around the edge from old tape toning, "Buffalo, 1943" penciled at bottom. ($277271) $350.00

The rally was to demand an end to discrimination in Buffalo's wartime industries. Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian immigrant activist and then-editor of Weekly Review, was deported in 1955 and went on to found Britain's first major black newspaper, the West Indian Gazette, as well as shaping the contours of early Black feminism.
62. Jones, John Hudson, editor. The truth about Negro Affairs: a weekly newsletter. Chicago: Congress of Racial Equality, 1945. 5p. mimeographed newsletter, 8.5x11 inches, paper toned, penciled notes "pre-publication sample" and "Rec'd Dec. 17, 1945" in margins of front cover, otherwise very good. The last page is a mimeographed letter to editors, asking them to announce that a newsletter called Negro Affairs is forthcoming in January 1946. However, we have not found any evidence that it ever materialized, at least not under this title. (#277209) SOLD

Articles include a cover story on the New York crime wave, asserting that it is "Neither Negro nor wave," a short story noting that "An upsurge of political consciousness is noticeable among deep South Negroes," and a brief note about New York's effort to integrate baseball. The editor, Jones, was a contributor to the Daily Worker, Compass, and other publications.

63. Latimer, Ira. [Open letter to John E. Sullivan of Chicago Surface Lines requesting that he change the company's policy against hiring Black motormen, conductors, starters, and clerks]. Chicago: Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, 1943. Two mimeographed sheets on Committee letterhead, 8.5x11 inches, some toning, otherwise very good. (#277027) SOLD

Latimer states that the Committee had 1100 members, most of whom rode Chicago Surface Lines, and that the organization had noted that the company had only a small number of Black employees, most of whom were hired only under pressure. Provides the name and address of an applicant who was recently rejected, and pointedly concludes that "We believe that the Chicago Surface Lines will be willing to do their part to help win the war and promote inter-racial tolerance and amity. To this end we make our representations to you and through you to the executive management and owners of the Chicago Surface Lines."
64. League for Nonviolent Civil Disobedience Against Military Segregation. Don't join a Jim Crow army [leaflet, together with a civil disobedience pledge sheet stapled to organizational letterhead]. New York: the League, [1948]. Two items, a 6x9 inch leaflet and an 8.5x11 inch civil disobedience pledge sheet (in which the signer pledges to refuse to register or be drafted for segregated military service) with letterhead stapled to it; the letterhead includes a list in tiny font of attorneys in various states willing to defend resisters. Both items have a penned July 1948 date at the bottom, otherwise very good. (#277270) **SOLD**

The League was headed by A. Philip Randolph, with the aid of Bayard Rustin and George Houser. The work of this organization, and others, pressured Harry Truman to end segregation in the armed forces later in the same year.

65. Lewis, Dr. Charles A. Statement of the National Negro Congress to the Platform Committee of the 1940 Republican Convention. [New York]: National Negro Congress, 1940. Two 8.5x11 inch mimeographed sheets stapled at upper left corner, very good. (#277194) **$200.00**

Text of remarks to be presented by Lewis, the national vice president of the NNC. Many NNC leaders were affiliated with the Communist Party, which made for an interesting set of issues on which to lobby the Republican Party. The first stated goal is to keep the US out of the war in Europe (following the Communist line under the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact), so Lewis appeals to Republican animus against the Democratic president in asking the party to "Condemn the Roosevelt provocations in Europe." Noting the GOP's descent from Lincoln, he calls on the party to include provisions in its platform opposing lynching and the poll tax and eliminating segregation in the armed forces, and calling on it to address other issues such as expanding social security.
66. [Maloney, Clarence M.]. The Negro is awakening! To his duties and responsibilities as a citizen. What are his duties? On to Chicago! To the National Negro Congress... [handbill]. Buffalo, NY: Local Sponsoring Committee of National Negro Congress, 1936. 9x12 inch leaflet, toned, small edge chips (not affecting text). (#277189) $150.00
Announces an event featuring Clarence M. Maloney, a Trinidadian immigrant attorney who served as a deputy state attorney general beginning in the following year. The reader is invited to "Bring your problems of whatever nature they may be to the Local Negro Congress," where "Outstanding leaders in the struggle for Negro rights will also speak."

67. March-on-Washington Movement. 8-point-program [handbill]. [New York]: the Movement, [1942]. 8.5x11 inch leaflet, darkened areas from old tape at left edge, penciled note at bottom from original owner stating that he obtained it at Freedom House in 1942. Paper unevenly toned. (#277269) SOLD
The first March on Washington for Civil Rights, conceived by A. Philip Randolph as a Black-led march to demand equality, to pass an anti-lynching bill, and to keep the US out of World War II, had been planned for July 1, 1941, but one week before the march was to take place, Roosevelt issued Executive Order 8802, establishing the Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC). The march was canceled. In the following years, however, the March on Washington Movement continued to hold rallies to protest haphazard and incomplete movement towards desegregation. This leaflet lists goals beginning with "the abrogation of every law which makes a distinction in treatment between citizens based on religion, creed, color, or national origin."

Much focus on the case of Samuel T. Symonette, a Harlem resident attacked by police. His case drew the attention of Communist councilman Davis and inspired calls from the community to prosecute the officers involved.
69. McGowan, Edward D. In defense of Negro leadership. Brooklyn: National Committee to Defend Negro Leadership, 1953. Eight-panel brochure (3.5x9 inches), photo of McGowan on the front, corner crease, year penned in corner of rear panel, otherwise very good. (#113133) SOLD
Address given to the National Fraternal Council of Churches in Detroit on April 30, 1953. Defense of Communist activist Ben Davis, among others. McGowan was the African American pastor at the Asbury Methodist Church in Frederick, Maryland.

70. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The American Red Cross and the segregation of Negro blood plasma. New York: NAACP, 1945. 4p, 8.5x11 inch mimeographed sheets stapled together at upper left corner, "Dec. 1945" penciled at lower left corner, otherwise very good condition. (#277074) $400.00
"The history of the policy of discrimination against Negro blood donors which the American Red Cross has pursued is in direct opposition to its charter obligations." Summarizes the ARC's position and quotes from its justifications, such as claiming that the Navy had requested the policy. When contacted, however, Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire wrote that "So far as the Navy is concerned, I wish to tell you that it has never requested the American Red Cross not to take blood from Negro donors." Even after the ARC began accepting donations, it stored and labeled them separately. Describes how this policy continued even under new ARC leadership.

71. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; American Jewish Congress. Civil rights in the United States in 1948; a balance sheet of group relations. New York: American Jewish Congress and National Association for Advancement of Colored People, [1949]. 36p., staplebound pamphlet, minor smudges to cover, very good. (#68368) $35.00
72. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Foreword by Walter White. Racial Inequalities in Education. New York: NAACP, 1938. 24p. staplebound pamphlet, ownership stamp of M[aurice] Rovner in corner of front cover, otherwise very good. Rear cover has photos of two schools in "Separate but Equal" Macon County, the school serving Black children appearing to be little more than a dilapidated hut. (#276930) SOLD

73. National Negro Congress. A petition - to the United Nations on behalf of 13 million oppressed Negro citizens of the United States of America. New York: NNC, 1946. 16p., 6x9 inches, very good staplebound pamphlet, 6x9 inches. (#10972) SOLD Max Yergan, who contributes a foreword, was President of the NNC.

74. Patterson, William L. We extend a fraternal hand... An open letter from William L. Patterson, Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Congress, to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [together with Patterson's response when his outreach was rebuffed]. New York: Civil Rights Congress, 1949. Two mimeographed items; the first is 4p., 8.5x14 inch sheets stapled at upper left corner; mild toning, very good. The latter is 3p., 8.5x11 inches, rear page toned. (#277077) $200.00

The NAACP had an uncomfortable relationship with the Civil Rights Congress, which included Communist Party members among its organizers. In this context, Patterson welcomes news that the NAACP was planning a nation-wide civil rights push, culminating in a conference in Washington DC in January, 1950. He urges the NAACP to welcome the support of the CRC and to include voices like Paul Robeson, Benjamin Davis Jr., and W.E.B. Du Bois at the conference. "Failure to invite these leaders of the fight against jimcrow and segregation would be inconsistent with your own call for unity." The NAACP rejected this offer of cooperation, accusing the CRC of having carried out attacks on the NAACP and laying out a list of unpleasant experiences with "Left" organizations. The second item is Patterson's response to this rejection, in which he accuses Roy Wilkins of dogmatism, red-baiting, and misstating facts, all to the disadvantage of the broader struggle for Civil Rights.
75. Randolph, A. Philip; Bayard Rustin. A. Philip Randolph’s statement following issuance of President Truman’s executive order establishing the President’s Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services [handbill stapled to fundraising leaflet by Rustin, and a sample letter to Truman vowing to continue civil disobedience]. New York: [League for Nonviolent Civil Disobedience Against Military Segregation], [1948]. Mimeographed 8.5x11 inch sheet with Randolph’s statement, "July 1948" penned at bottom; stapled to it are two smaller sheets. (#277276) SOLD.

The League was headed by A. Philip Randolph, with the aid of Bayard Rustin and George Houser. It called on people of all ethnic backgrounds to refuse to enlist or be drafted as long as the military practiced segregation. The work of this organization, and others, pressured Harry Truman to issue his famous executive order. However, according to Randolph, "On the first reading of the executive order, it appears that segregation has not been eliminated. Therefore the League shall relentlessly continue its struggle... The fact that Mr. Truman presented this unsatisfactory order is an indication that he has the power to issue one which will in fact outlaw segregation."

Rustin’s shorter note states that the order banned discrimination but not segregation; he asks for financial support to continue the battle. Rustin was a pivotal figure linking the struggle against racism with nonviolence, though he usually played a "behind the scenes" role in organizing due to concerns about his homosexuality being used to taint the Movement.

76. Shank, Oliver. Christ knows no color line! [New York?]: [Civil Rights Congress?], [1950?]. Six panel brochure, 5x7.5 inches, pencil notes else very good condition. Not found in OCLC as of 5/2021. Imprint information from penciled notes of previous owner (M. Rovner). (#266311) $95.00

77. Teachers Union, Local 555, United Public Workers. Bigotry and bias in the NYC public schools: preliminary draft of a memorandum. New York: Teachers Union Local 555, [1950]. 27p., 8.5x14 inch mimeographed sheets stapled at left, front cover has lower right corner torn off. "Received June, 1950" penciled at bottom edge. (#174249) SOLD

Outlines patterns of racism, anti-Semitism, and actions taken against teachers for perceived anti-Americanism by the school board in New York City. Cites such instances as sufficient cause to launch a full-scale investigation, in order to protect the equal rights of all students.
Critique of the covenants used to prohibit the residence of certain ethnic groups.

On the case of an African American sharecropper from Georgia. Rosa Lee Ingram, a widow, had crossed into the property of a white neighbor to retrieve wayward livestock; the neighbor, John Stratford, hit her with the butt of his shotgun. She called to her sons for help, and they brought farm implements to defend their mother; in the resulting scuffle Stratford was hit on the head and died from his injuries. In a one-day trial by an all-white jury, Ingram and two of her sons were sentenced to die by electric chair. Although the death sentence was commuted, it was not until 1959 that the imprisoned family members were granted parole.

80. Yatrofsky, Jean; foreword by Frank Kingdon. Jersey Joads, the story of the Cranbury Case. New York: Workers Defense League, 1940. 14p., mimeographed 8.5x11 inch sheets stapled at left, minor uneven toning, otherwise very good. An extra page has been added after the title page announcing victory in the case. (#276995) $350.00
"John Steinbeck has stirred the conscience of our whole country with his tragic story of the Joads. But here is an account of people in our own state as hapless as the Joads. What shall we do?" On Black migratory potato-pickers attacked by a white mob in Cranbury, New Jersey. Discusses the poor housing and work conditions of farm laborers, and their tenuous civil rights. Nine men were ultimately convicted of the assault on the workers, though their sentences were suspended.

Provenance: All items in this catalog were originally collected by Maurice Rovner except for nos. 20, 38, 48, 54, and 56.