

Black History Resource Guide

Last updated September 2022



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Black History Resource List

This is a guide detailing archives and rare books held at the [Cadbury Research Library](#), University of Birmingham that relate to Black History.

Items in this list have been found using our catalogues and indexes, or suggested by staff members and researchers, but it is not exhaustive. We have many more archive documents and rare books available for research, but there are too many to list, so we have highlighted key documents. If you come across other sources during the course of your research you think should be included, we would be pleased to hear about them.

You can search for further sources via our [archive catalogue](#) and our [book catalogue](#) online.

Our main website gives [visitor information](#) should you wish to visit and consult any of the items we hold.

The National Archives, Kew also has compiled a useful [guide](#) intended as an introduction to the key records relating to the history the British Empire and Commonwealth held at The National Archives and at other archives in the UK.

Archives listed in this guide are by or about peoples of African and Caribbean descent. Please be aware that historic documents or older books may use terminology or images that we would consider offensive today.

Archives held at the Cadbury Research Library

Birmingham Black Oral History Project

This collection comprises copies of recordings and transcripts of interviews, of post war black immigrants to Birmingham which were carried out by the Birmingham Black Oral History Project between 1990 and 1992. We only hold a small proportion of what was created for the project, and some of what we hold is currently closed to researchers. The majority of the recordings are at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

Reference: [DA6](#)

British Cotton Growing Association

Founded in 1902 in order to promote the growth and cultivation of cotton within the British Empire. This collection includes, for example the travel diaries (with maps and photographs) of Sir William Himbury who visited all the major cotton growing countries in the course of his work, 1904-1938. In 1925, for example, he made a five month tour, as General Manager, of the cotton growing areas of India, Uganda, the Sudan and Egypt.

Reference: [BCGA](#)

Burt, Joseph

This collection contains photocopies of a set of typescript copy letters from Joseph Burt to William Cadbury written during a visit to Africa on behalf of Cadbury Brothers, 1905-1907. Joseph Burt had been hired by William Cadbury on behalf of the chocolate firm Cadbury Brothers Limited to determine if the cocoa it was purchasing from the Portuguese West African colony of Sao Tome and Principe had been harvested by slave labourers from Angola. Burt's letters to Cadbury record his observations during his six months in Sao Tome and Principe, and his year in Angola, and provide an insight into British and Portuguese attitudes at that time towards work, slavery, and race.

Reference: [MS857](#) (See also entry for the Cadbury papers)

Cadbury Papers

Business, legal and other papers of Cadbury's relating mainly the Cocoa trade in West Africa from about 1900 to 1960. This collection includes papers, including personal papers of William A Cadbury, relating to his campaign against slavery in the Portuguese West African Islands of San Tome and Principe, and to the court case which Cadbury's brought a libel case against the 'Standard' newspaper (following the publication of an article accusing Cadbury's of using slave labour to produce their coca in San Tome). Specific items include W. A. Cadbury's journal, with letters, photographs, documents and maps, of a visit to West Africa, 1908-1909; and a

volume of letters, presscuttings and photographs relating to Jeronimo Paiva de Carvalho and Alfredo da Silva and slavery in Portuguese West Africa, 1911-1913. Reference: [CADBURY](#) (See also entry for Burt, Joseph).

Chamberlain, Joseph

The Cadbury Research Library has a significant number of collections of papers of politicians of the 19th and 20th centuries. Perhaps the most noteworthy in the context of international black history are the personal and political papers of Joseph Chamberlain who served as Secretary of State for the Colonies 1895-1902 and was primarily responsible for British policy during the Boer War. The collection also includes papers relating to his visit to South Africa in 1902 as well as small amount of material relating to slavery in Zanzibar in the later 1890s.

Reference: [JC](#)

Church Missionary Society Archive

The Church Mission Society (CMS), an evangelical Christian organisation, was founded in 1799 and is still active today. The first missionaries went out to West Africa in 1804. Working through men and women recruited in the UK and overseas, work spread rapidly across the world. By the time of the Society's centenary, seven missions had been established in Africa of which five were still active in 1899. The CMS withdrew from its mission stations in the Caribbean in the mid-19th century due to shortage of funds.

In its widest sense, the 'Church Missionary Society Archive' comprises the official archive of the Church Mission Society (CMS) and a number of deposited and unofficial archives including hundreds of smaller, privately deposited collections (CMS/ACC), records of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society (CEZ) and other organisations that amalgamated with CMS. Some of the privately deposited collections are personal and family papers of missionaries who worked in Africa.

Amongst the many highlights are thousands of letters between staff at CMS headquarters and missionaries working in Africa; illustrated travel notes and diaries; manuscript maps; copies of early 19th century newspapers printed in West Africa; newscuttings relating to the Slave Trade; reports of educational and medical institutions; 19th century photographs of mission work and every day scenes; illustrated periodicals conveying missionaries' impressions of local events and culture to a European audience; personal accounts of people who had been enslaved; correspondence with government officials; original language manuscripts and missionaries' observations recorded in sketches and paintings.

Records of the Society's black employees include, for example:

- papers of Rev Edward Jones, an African American of the Episcopal church who joined CMS in 1840 and began work as principal of the 'Christian Institution', Sierra Leone (later to become Fourah Bay College) in January 1841;

- papers of Bishop Samuel Adjai (also 'Ajayi') Crowther, missionary, linguist and the first African Anglican bishop, including his account of being captured into slavery;
- papers of Rev Thomas Adesina Jacobson Ogunbiyi, OBE, teacher, clergyman and missionary with the CMS in Nigeria;
- papers of Dorothy Jewitt, MBE, midwife and missionary nurse awarded an MBE for her contribution to nursing services in Nigeria.

Approximately two-thirds of the CMS Archive has been digitally published and can be seen online through [Adam Matthew Digital Ltd.](#) Members of the University of Birmingham have access through the University's eResources.

For more information about the Church Missionary Society Archive, follow the link under Church Missionary Society [research guide](#).

References: [CMS](#); [CMS/ACC](#); and [CEZ](#)

Coleridge-Taylor, Avril Gwendolyn

Avril Coleridge-Taylor (pianist, conductor and composer, 1903-1998) was once described as a 'Brilliant daughter of a brilliant father', Jonah Barrington, Daily Graphic, London. We hold publicity leaflets about Avril by the London based music management agency, Ibbs and Tillett, c 1953, and letter from Avril to the publisher, Dennis Dobson, 1978. In just a few paragraphs Avril Coleridge-Taylor conveys a sense of her experience of being black, and of being a woman in a male-dominated profession and the child of a celebrated parent.

See also entries for her parents Samuel and Jessie Coleridge-Taylor

Reference: [MS860/5/1/16](#)

Coleridge-Taylor, Samuel and Jessie

We hold several letters, newscuttings, receipts, legal documents and programmes relating to the composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875–1912), and his wife Jessie Coleridge-Taylor.

References: [MS33/4/1/3-4](#), [MS33/5/5](#), [MS107/36](#), and MS798 (not yet catalogued).

See also entry in printed book section of this guide, and entries for their daughter Avril Coleridge-Taylor]. Images related to Samuel Coleridge-Taylor can be found on our [Flickr page](#)

Garrison, William Lloyd

William Lloyd Garrison, 1805-1879, was an American anti-slavery campaign leader. A letter dated 1855 from Garrison thanks Harriet Martineau for her help and support with the anti-slavery cause. Other letters from Garrison to Martineau dated 1867 reveal his joy in seeing 'the utter abolition of the American slave system'. Also held

are letters dated 1866-1867 about Garrison and his campaign fund.
Reference: [HM/349](#); [HMM/B/1/9](#) and LAdd/2439-2442.

Hall, William

Private journal of William Hall as master on HMS Morgiana under Captain Knight off the West Coast of Africa, 1822. The entries record Hall's experiences as part of the naval squadron under the command of Commodore Sir Robert Mends which was charged, under various treaties, with suppressing the traffic in slaves by British subjects and by subjects of the Kings of Spain, Portugal and the Netherlands. These entries include descriptions of encounters with slaving vessels. Reference: [MS27](#)

Hansberry, Lorraine

Press and magazine cuttings of reviews of 'A Raisin in the Sun' by Lorraine Hansberry. With members of the cast and cast lists; includes programme, photographs, brief biographies of members of the cast and typescript. Dated 1959.
Reference: [MS38/603](#)

Hughes, Langston

Press and magazine cuttings of reviews of 'Simply Heaven' by Langston Hughes, based on the authors novel 'Simple takes a Wife'; with photographs and illustrations of members of the cast and cast list; includes programme with cast list and typescript. Dated 1957-1958.
Reference: [MS38/4218](#)

Martineau, Harriet

This collection comprises correspondence, literary manuscripts and other papers to and from Harriet Martineau (1802-1876), writer.

It includes a substantial quantity of her correspondence with contemporary authors and writers, politicians, journalists and other public figures. The letters document her activities and contributions as a social and political commentator, journalist and literary writer and as a feminist intellectual and contain a wealth of information about her philosophies and concerning such issues as women's rights, improved access to health and education, better working conditions and practices, and emancipation and abolition of slavery in America.

References: [HM](#), [HMLAdd](#), and [HMM](#)

Mosley, Oswald

The papers of Oswald Mosley include materials relating to his position and the Union Movements post-war policy towards immigration in the 1950s and 1960s. We also have a collection of publications of post-war British Fascist movements dating from the late 1960s up to 1993 which address similar political issues.

References: [OMN](#) and [OMD](#)

National Athletics Archive

This archive includes images of many black athletes, including Jack London, the first black athlete to win Olympic medals for Great Britain in 1928, and Emmanuel McDonald Bailey. Also includes a scrapbook titled '1936' featuring Jesse Owens.

References: [ATH/AAA/3/3/1/1/71](#), [ATH/ERLP/6/1/3](#), and [ATH/DR/5/2](#)

Robeson, Paul

We hold items relating to Paul Robeson, singer and actor. They include programmes for plays; newscuttings; concert details; cast lists; publicity photographs. As Robeson material features in numerous different collections, please search our [archive catalogue](#) for further details about our holdings.

Theatre Collection

The Theatre collections (reference: [MS38](#)) contains many examples of plays featuring Black actors and Actresses. For example:

Ref: [MS38/2705](#): File, 1927-1929 related to the play '*Porgy*' by Du Bose and Dorothy Heyward. Press and magazine cuttings of reviews of '*Porgy*' with photographs and illustrations of members of the cast and cast lists; programme extract inside front cover gives cast list and typescript dates; includes printed flyers [1929].

Described in some of the reviews at the time as 'The Negro Play', it stars Black actors and actresses. Includes photographs of Jack Cater, Georgette Harvey, Evelyn Ellis, Frank Wilson; Rose Maclendon; Leigh Whipper; Wesley Hill; Nelson Gray; Richard Huey; Peter Clark; Percy Verwayne; A. B. Comathiere.

Ref: [MS38/2706](#): File dated 1952-1953 related to the play '*Porgy and Bess*' by George Gershwin and Du Bose Heyward. Press and magazine cuttings of reviews of '*Porgy and Bess*', based on the play '*Porgy*' by Du Bose and Dorothy Heyward; with photographs and illustrations of members of the cast and cast list; includes programme extract with cast list; magazine extracts with photographs of members of the cast in scenes from the play; magazine article relating to tours of America and Europe.

Described in some of the reviews at the time as Gershwin's 'Negro Folk Opera', it stars Black actors and actresses. Includes photographs of Leontyne Price, Cab Calloway, William Warfield, Urylee Leonardos, Howard Roberts, John McCurry, Jerry Laws, Joseph James, Helen Thigpen, Georgia Burke.

The Save the Children Archive

The Save the Children Fund (SCF) was founded in 1919 as a non-political organisation to relieve child suffering. Search the [SCF archive catalogue](#) for further details. The SCF archive offers a rich view into the history of child welfare, education and health, children's rights, and wider humanitarian relief and development work around the world. Records include photographs of programmes, project reports, and administrative correspondence.

Many of the overseas programme papers (archive ref. SCF/OP) include records which are able to provide valuable information about significant international events,

including political upheaval, conflict, and famine. These records include those relating to SCF programmes running in Uganda under Idi Amin during the 1970s (archive ref. SCF/OP/4/UGA), in Nigeria during the Nigerian Civil War 1967-1970 (archive refs. SCF/OP/4/NIG and SCF/SC/MJA), and famine relief programmes across the Horn of Africa in the 1980s, including records relating to Live Aid (see for example archive ref. SCF/OP/4/ETH and SCF/FR).

SCF's UK based programmes include those aimed at supporting specific communities. Records include those relating to the African Family Advisory Service (archive ref. SCF/HW/2/AFA), the Asian Mother and Baby Campaign (archive ref. SCF/HW/2/ASI), and the Building Blocks programme, later the Equality Learning Centre, which provided anti-bias and anti-racism education to under-fives (archive ref. SCF/HW/2/BUI).

The archive also offers an important opportunity to evaluate the history of colonialism and colonial attitudes. After the Second World War SCF established many of their programmes in British colonies or countries with links to the former British Empire. Records from these programmes, including those in Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia) (archive ref. SCF/OP/4/ZIM), Kenya (archive ref. SCF/OP/4/KEN), South Africa (archive ref. SCF/OP/4/SOU), and the West Indies (see principally archive ref. SCF/OP/3/AMCA), shed light on the political and social attitudes in those countries at that time. They also show the relationship with the SCF UK organisation and individual countries' branch organisations.

Other important records include those relating to the International Congress on the African Child held in 1931 (see for example archive refs. SCF/A/9/10 and SCF/P/2/11/4).

Sierra Leone

We hold several archive collections relating to the slave trade in Sierra Leone:

Commission dated 1810 to examine and seize slave ships. Reference: [MS503](#)

Extract of a journal dated 1807 by Thomas Ludlam, Governor of Sierra Leone, detailing the arrest of an American slave ship. Reference: [MS504](#)

Journal of Richard Warburton Lytton of Knebworth House, 1786. He mentions letters from, and meetings with, his friend Granville Sharp, the anti-slavery campaigner and makes reference to the work of the committee for the settlement of freed slaves established in Sierra Leone. [MS695](#)

Swanzy, Henry Valentine Leonard

Correspondence of Henry Swanzy, editor and broadcaster, principally relating to his work as editor and producer of the BBC [British Broadcasting Corporation] radio programme 'Caribbean Voices', a literary programme which ran between 1945 and 1958. The programme, which was broadcast back to the West Indies, featured poems, stories and other literary material by West Indian writers and provided an important and rare opportunity for writers of West Indian poetry and fiction to have their work publicised. Reference: [MS42](#)

University of Birmingham Archive

Papers of University staff

The Department holds papers of a number of former University staff including scientists, historians, linguists, economists and mathematicians. These include, for example, the papers of two former members of staff of **Centre for West African Studies**: those of **Marion Johnson** ([US26](#)) relate to West African history and culture including the slave trade, textiles, trade, economy, 1970-1986; and **Dr Robert Bradbury**'s collection ([US3](#)) relates to his field tours in Benin he undertook between 1951 and 1961 and his research on language, culture and folk-lore in this area of Southern Nigeria.

We also hold the papers of **Janet Mendelsohn** ([USS100](#)) which largely comprise photographs taken in the Balsall Heath area of Birmingham during the mid 1960s, and capture the everyday lives and experiences of residents including black and Asian migrants to the city.

University archives

The records of the University and its predecessors provide an important resource relating to the contribution presence of black and Asian students. Student registers for Mason Science College, the University's predecessor, for example, record the admission of international students from the 1880s, and George Edalji, the son of the vicar of Great Wyrley in Staffordshire, who was of Indian descent. Edalji studied at Mason College in the 1890s before attending law school and becoming a solicitor. The University offered degrees in Mining and Metallurgy, which were studied by a high proportion of students from India and China. Commerce subjects were also popular with international students from the early 20th century, and group photographs reveal the ethnic diversity of the students on these degree courses.

The archives include copies of student magazines and newspapers published since the 1880s and these and the records of the Guild of Students are a valuable source of information for the study of the experiences of black and Asian students at Birmingham, including articles about student societies, incidents of racial discrimination, and political activism of student groups tackling racism. The student newspaper, 'Redbrick', also covers events outside the University including, for example, the visit of Malcolm X to Birmingham in 1965.

The **Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies** archive catalogued at [UB/CCCS](#) could also be a useful research source, as some of the stencilled occasional papers deal with issues relating to racism and immigration in the 1970s and 1980s.

University of Birmingham Staff Papers: **Stuart Hall Archive**, catalogued at [US121](#). Stuart McPhail Hall (1932-2014), born Jamaica. Cultural theorist and political commentator. Professional and political archive of Stuart Hall containing material relating to his activities as editor of the *Universities and Left Review* and the *New Left Review* in the 1950s and early 1960s; his involvement with *CND* during its first wave in the early 1960s; his role as a member and Director of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham from 1964 to 1979;

his teaching work at the Open University after he left Birmingham in 1979; and his wide-ranging research interests following his retirement from the Open University in 1997, until the end of his life. The archive contains a substantial quantity of annotated drafts and published copies of Stuart Hall's writings on a wide range of subjects, spanning the period from the 1950s to the 2010s, as well as correspondence; course materials; interview transcripts; recordings; and ephemera

YMCA

The National Council of YMCAs of England and Wales was formed in 1880 and its records reflect the changing focus of its work with young people. For example, it has worked with the troops in both world wars at home and abroad (including Africa and India) and the YMCA, with the International Hospitality League, also ran a "Hostel for Coloured Soldiers & Sailors" in the First World War. Its traditional hostels, particularly from the 1950s, were used by overseas students. The collection also includes a substantial amount relating to the international YMCA movement. The national journal, for example, from the late 19th century up to the 1920s contains information and articles about YMCAs across the world. The collection also includes publications and papers of the World Alliance and YMCAs in countries around the world. Reference: [YMCA](#)

Several World War One photographs in the YMCA archive feature black soldiers. [YMCA/K/1/13/65](#) London; [YMCA/K/1/21/123](#) and [YMCA/K/1/21/124](#) are group photos of soldiers from the West Indies, photos taken at Sussex-Surrey Division, Seaford. [YMCA/K/1/21/125](#) is a photo of soldiers from Jamaica, c 1916.

Printed books held at Cadbury Research Library

These are just a small selection of books in our collection available to researchers interested in Black History.

- Armistead, Wilson
A tribute for the negro: being a vindication of the moral, intellectual, and religious capabilities of the coloured portion of mankind: with particular reference to the African race / illustrated by numerous biographical sketches, facts, anecdotes, etc. and many superior portraits and engravings
Manchester: William Irwin... [et al], 1848
Cadbury Research Library: HT 1581
- Birmingham Faces and Places
Volumes 5-6 bound together, 1893-1894. Pages 182-185 features an article "The Rev Peter Stanford, Birmingham's Coloured Preacher"
Cadbury Research Library: DA690.B6
- Birmingham Musical Festival, 1900
Signed copy of a compilation volume of programmes. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's signature can be seen [1st page in the centre] alongside that of Sir Edward Elgar.

Coleridge-Taylor's 'Song of Hiawatha' is listed as being performed 3 October 1900. Cadbury Research Library: r DA 690.B6M9 (signed copy edition)

- Crowther, Samuel Adjai
We hold lots of books or pamphlets related to, or by Samuel 'Adjai' Crowther (c 1806-1891) first African Anglican bishop, missionary and linguist. Below are just a few examples. See also entries in the archive section.

Page, Jesse

Samuel Crowther: the slave boy who became Bishop of the Niger
London: S.W. Partridge & Co. 1889 3rd ed.
Cadbury Research Library BV3625.N5

Paper read by Crowther before the Royal Geographical
Society 11 June 1877
Cadbury Research Library r p DT 360

A grammar and vocabulary of the Nupe language by Samuel
Crowther London: Church Missionary House, 1864
Cadbury Research Library r PL 8577

- Douglass, Frederick (edited by John Lobb)
The life and times of Frederick Douglass: from 1817-1882
London, 1882
Cadbury Research Library E449.D7
- Ellison, Ralph Waldo, 1914-199
Invisible man; illustrated by Will Harmuth
Franklin Center, Pa: Franklin Library, 1980
Limited edition, signed by the author
rPS 3509.L6I48
- Equiano, Olaudah
The interesting narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano: or Gustavus Vassa, the
African / written by himself.
London, 1793
Cadbury Research Library: HT 869 (and three other editions)
- Gronniosaw, James Albert Ukawsaw
A narrative of the most remarkable particulars in the life of James Albert
Ukawsaw Gronniosaw, an African prince / as related by himself. It was the first
Slave narrative in the English language. Published in Bath in 1772, it gives a vivid
account of Gronniosaw's life, from his capture in Africa through slavery to a life
of poverty in Colchester and Kidderminster.
Cadbury Research Library: r p CT2750.G6A1
- Lynch, Bohun
The prize ring London, 1925

Cadbury Research Library: q GV1127.E6

- Negro year book: an annual encyclopedia of the Negro, 1925-1926
Alabama: Tuskegee Institute, 1925
rE185.5N41
- Sancho, Ignatius 1729-1780
Letters of the late Ignatius Sancho, an African: in two volumes: to which
are prefixed, memoirs of his life....
London, J. Nichols, 1782
Cadbury Research Library: HT 869.S3
- Taunton, Ethelred 1857-1907
The English black monks of St. Benedict: a sketch of their history from the
coming of St. Augustine to the present day.
London: John C. Nimmo, 1897
Cadbury Research Library Store: BX3016 (need to order in advance)
- Samuel Ringgold Ward b 1817
Autobiography of a fugitive negro: his anti-slavery labours in the United States,
Canada & England
London: John Snow, 1855
Cadbury Research Library: rHT1029.W3
- Washington, Booker T.
Up from slavery : an autobiography
New York : Doubleday, Page and Co., 1901
Cadbury Research Library: E185.97.W3
- Washington, Booker T.
Tuskegee : its people, their ideals and achievements / edited by Booker
T. Washington
New York : D. Appleton, 1905
Cadbury Research Library: LC 2851.T82
- Washington, Booker T.
The Negro in Business
New York : Hertel, Jenkins & Co., 1907
Cadbury Research Library: E185.8
- Wheatley, Phillis
Poems and letters / edited by Chas. Fred Heartman
New York, 1915
Cadbury Research Library: PS866.W5A6
- Wheatley, Phillis (by Heartman)
A critical attempt, and a biography of her writings / by Chas. Fred Heartman
New York, 1915
Cadbury Research Library: PS866.W5Z5