

# Black African Caribbean Community archives

London Metropolitan Archives: Information Leaflet Number 21



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This guide explores collections relating to people of Black African and Caribbean origin at LMA.

## Introduction

Black presence in London can be traced to the Tudor period and before where Black people were commonly referred to as 'moors' or 'blackamoors'. The 17th and 18th centuries saw a major increase in Black settlers in London alongside the rise of the slave trade between Europe, Africa and the Americas including Caribbean islands. Black slaves were brought back by plantation owners, merchants, traders, sea captains and ex-colonial officials. They were often employed as status symbols as servants in the homes of the middle classes and gentry. Some plantation owners lived in London and their legal papers document the slave trade and estates in the Caribbean.

It has been estimated from burial registers that by 1750, 1-3% of London's population were Black. (Bartels, Emily C. (2006). "Too Many Blackamoors: Deportation, Discrimination, and Elizabeth I". ***Studies in English Literature***.) Leading Black activists of the 18th century such as Olaudah Equiano, with support of Quakers and other abolitionists demanded that Black people be freed from slavery. In 1807 the British slave trade was abolished and the slave trade was made illegal in the British empire by 1838.

There was a decline in population from the late 18th century. The First and Second World Wars (1914-1918 and 1939-1945) led to growth in the number of Black people in London with the arrival of seaman, wartime workers and servicemen. Also there were smaller groups of students from Africa and the Caribbean slowly arriving into London. However it was the post Second World War period which saw the largest influx of Black people, mainly from the British West Indies. This migration is often referred to as the 'Windrush', a term referring to the ship the 'Empire Windrush' which carried the first major group of Caribbean migrants to the United Kingdom at Tilbury Docks, Essex in 1948. By the mid-1960s Britain had become the centre of the largest overseas population of 'West Indians', the most widely used term used at that time along with the term 'coloured' referring to skin colour.

Friction between the settled population and new comers developed as a result of their settlement and a number of institutes, campaign groups and other organisations were formed to tackle these issues. Attitudes towards racism and acceptance of Black populations in

Britain have changed since mid 20th century; during the 1980s, the Greater London Council and Inner London Education Authority gave grants to minority ethnic groups. The provision of education and social activities for Black children and young people grew with the formation of Black youth clubs such as The Moonshot Club, Lewisham and supplementary education centres founded by leaders and parents in the community. For further information for Sources on the History of Education in London Metropolitan Archives see Leaflet 14.

## **Collections at LMA**

Evidence of the Black Caribbean community can be found in a variety of collections.

### **Parish records**

Baptism, marriage and burial registers refer to Black people from 16th century. Entries sometimes give the age, occupation and place where the individual originally came from. For example Saint Luke, Chelsea parish register contains a baptism entry for Charles, a 10 or 12 year old boy, 'brought from Guiana' as a servant by Sir Walter Raleigh, baptised on 13 February 1597/8 (P74/LUK/161 folio 5v).

Parish holdings can be unlocked through the work of the 'Black and Asian Londoners: Presence and Background 1536-1840' project which uses parish records to identify African, Caribbean and Asian individuals living in London during this period. Please contact LMA for access to the results of this ongoing project and opportunities for getting involved in volunteering in this work.

### **Families and individuals collections and the Slave Trade**

The Slave Trade is documented widely in LMA collections.

The Elliot family were Quakers in London. John Elliot's letters show his interest in the abolition cause. He makes reference to the evils of the trade as part of woes of general human society. Letters from his 'cousin' Richard Thomas How of Apsley talk of wanting to 'make fresh application to parliament' concerning abolition in 1793 (ACC/1017/1067). He mentions again briefly in 1798 (ACC/1017/1078) and Sarah How writes to say how 'pleased to see abolition of the Slave Trade in so far a train' (ACC/1017/1081).

## **Sugar Plantation Estate collections**

These contain detailed information on slaves on the estates in the Caribbean:

The Cooper family archives (ACC/0775) document Jamaica and Grenada including letters concerning compensation for abolition of slavery. Highlights include the will of Robert Dukinfield of Jamaica (ACC/0775/803) leaving to his freed Black mistress (former slave) house and lands. Valuations and inventories of estates are common in estate collections and often include lists of slaves and how they were related (for example ACC/0775/811).

Further significant holdings can be found in the Clitherow family records relating to Jamaica (ACC/1360); Seaton, Parnell papers concerning St Christopher (ACC/1366) and Angerstein papers concerning Grenada(F/ANG).

Further plantation records can be found in city business collections. For example Boddington and Company records contains deeds, letter of attorney and map relating to sugar plantations which they acquired in 1837 on St Christopher (St Kitts), 1790-1812 (Ms 16796).

## **City business archives, missionary societies and movements covering Africa and Caribbean**

The Bank of British West Africa archives (CLC/B/207) include branch reports and returns which relate to native customers which give an insight into colonial attitudes. There are also photographs of bank branches, staff, locality and people. For listings of mainly city-based businesses held which were active in Africa and West Indies see our [Business Records guide](#).

As well as business records, records of missionary work in the West Indies and in Kenya are held from 1838-1960s, in the records of the Commonwealth and Continental Church Society and the New England Company.

Also held are papers of Anti-Apartheid Movement (London Branch) (LMA/4421) which include minutes; campaign records concerning issues in South Africa such as the release of political prisoners, for the arms embargo, and halts to investment in that country, as well as appeals for widespread consumer, sports and cultural boycotts; and papers of local groups in London, 1970s - 1990s

## **Local authority and education records**

The Corporation of London archives include a Journal containing a petition to stop slaves being taken from Africa to work on British plantations, 1787 (COL/CC/01/069).

The archives of Greater London Council (GLC), Inner London Education Authority (ILEA) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) hold a wealth of material on community engagement and planning by London's top-tier of local government. The GLC's Ethnic Minorities Committee was particularly active and minutes (series GLC/DG/MIN/049-050) and presented papers (series GLC/DG/PRE/049-050), 1981-1986, shed light on their work. Other community initiatives can be sourced by searching GLC grant files (for example series GLC/DG/EM/07) on the creation of Caribbean banking projects, hairdressing businesses, publications, youth forums amongst others. See 'Moving Here' project (details below) for a selection of images of grant applications, reports, posters, press releases and publications from the Race Relations Unit, Arts and Recreation Committee and other GLC departments. See Leaflet 14 for sources for Black Supplementary Education Movement.

## **Other collections**

Presence of the Black community can be found in a wide range of organisations' archives including nurses in hospital records, charities and other organisations records. Specific collections include:

### **Paul Robeson**

Paul LeRoy Bustill Robeson (1898–1976) was an internationally renowned American bass-baritone concert singer, scholar, actor, athlete, writer, orator and lawyer forwarding the civil rights cause. LMA holds the collection 'Recordings, Writings and Ephemera Relating to the Life and Works of Paul Robeson' (LMA/4231) including vinyl, tapes and compact cassettes, letters and printed material from 1930s – 1980s including related exhibitions and musical events collected by Ken and Flo Goodland. The audio-visual records are available by prior appointment only.

### **Association of Greater London Older Women (AGLOW)**

Include papers of Black Workers, and Black Lesbian Groups from 1985 (LMA/4613).

## **'Moving Here'**

Online source 'Moving Here' project created a website which provided details and digital images of archival sources concerning 200 years of Migration of members of the Caribbean, South Asian, Irish and Jewish communities to the United Kingdom. The project was led by The National Archives and contributions were made by a consortium of 30 archives, libraries and museums who contributed material to the catalogue of 200,000 items. The original website content is no longer live and was acquired for preservation by The National Archives in 2013 and is available on their [web archive](#).

To search and view images of records contributed by LMA, please search the [Web Archive advanced Search](#). Limit your research to the website 'movinghere.org.uk'. Note the phrase 'London Metropolitan Archives' will bring all relevant items submitted by LMA.

## **The Huntley Archives at LMA**

The Huntley archives consist of two collections; records of Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications Limited (also known as Bogle-L'Ouverture Press), radical black publishers and booksellers (LMA/4462); and documents from 1952 – 2010, concerning personal and family, campaigning, educational and environmental initiatives, and other business ventures of Eric and Jessica Huntley (LMA/4463).

## **Bogle-L'Ouverture**

Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications Limited was established in 1969 by Eric and Jessica Huntley and based in West Ealing where the couple lived. The name derives from two individuals who fought against colonialism and slavery during their time; Toussaint L'Ouverture of Haiti and Paul Bogle of Jamaica who were both sons of slaves who rose to prominence and were a source of inspiration for their people. The company's first published book was 'The Groundings with My Brothers'. It arose from the struggles of the Huntley's friend Dr Walter Rodney (1942-1980) in Jamaica. To stop the voice of Black history from being silenced they decided to publish Rodney's speeches in order to make them available to as wide an audience as possible. The second publication, 'How Europe Underdeveloped Africa' gave a view of the European encounter with Africa from a Black perspective. These books were a political act to educate and inform the wider population. Their bookshop was renamed Walter Rodney Bookshop to commemorate the murder of Rodney in 1980, and became a focal point in the

community as a meeting place and venue for events. From 1970s a wide variety of authors have been published together with posters and greeting cards.

Records include business records and papers of associated publishing organisations founded by Eric and Jessica Huntley. The archives include correspondence files and submitted manuscripts relating to published and unpublished authors, poets and artists (LMA/4462/C-D). For details on 'Researching Walter Rodney in the Huntley archives' see Leaflet no.26.

Records include of key initiatives including Bookshop Joint Action, a group established to campaign against attacks on the company and other Black publishers by racists (LMA/4462/J), and the International Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books (LMA/4462/M) organised during 1980s through the alliance of Bogle-L'Ouverture Publications, New Beacon Books and Race Today Publications.

The collection also includes personal records of Lionel and Pansy Jeffrey, and their involvement in political and social campaigns and as community workers, 1958-1995 (LMA/4462/P) and records of Andrew Salkey, writer, poet and radio interviewer relating to his relationship with the Huntleys and advice he gave to their business, 1968-1994 (LMA/4462/Q), which were given to Eric and Jessica Huntley.

### **Huntley Family Archives**

Eric and Jessica Huntley came to London from Guyana (formerly British Guiana) between 1956 and 1958, where they had been active politically in the People's Progress Party of Guyana. For over 50 years the Huntley's participated in many significant campaigns for racial and social justice that occurred on the national and international scene including the black supplementary schools movement, Black Parents Group, Black Parents Movement, political repression in their native country Guyana for which they founded the Committee Against Repression in Guyana, and freeing Mumia Abu-Jamal, American, former Black Panther and radio journalist on death row in Pennsylvania. Their community involvement included Keskidee Trust, Islington.

Records include letters, reports, newsletters, photographs and related records of non-publishing businesses, political campaigns, community and heritage initiatives, education work, concerns with the environment in Caribbean and papers relating to their personal lives

including family and friends. Records relating to living individuals are subject to access restricted according to data protection legislation.

Access: these records are available without prior appointment. Photographs and the Huntley library and pamphlet collection are uncatalogued and are available by prior appointment only.

### **Additional notes**

The Huntley Meeting Room at LMA is named after Eric and Jessica Huntley and a bust of Jessica Huntley by George Fowokan Kelly is on display. The Friends of the Huntley Archives at LMA (formerly The Huntley Archives Advisory Group), which consists of the Huntleys, their friends and members of LMA staff, have organised annual Huntley archive conferences in February of each year since 2005. Inspiration for these events is sought directly from themes documented by the Huntley Archives.

### **Collections deposited since 2005**

Since the Huntley archives were deposited (the very first deposit from the Black Caribbean Community at LMA), the following have joined LMA's holdings, many through interested generated at the Huntley Conferences. Note: some recently deposited collections listed above are uncatalogued and require prior appointment. Some access restrictions apply to records relating to living individuals.

### **Accession ref: B16/088 – Allen, Clarence**

Correspondence, printed material, photographs and four videos - relating to Black Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender community (BLGBTQ) including sexual health, clubs and events and the arts.

Clarence Allen worked at the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project (BLGCP), Tottenham, which became the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre (BLGC), Arch 196, 230 Bellenden Road, Peckham; also a founder of Big Up, the first UK-based sexual health organisations for BMWHSWM (Black Men Who Have Sex With Men); records of each are included}, 1991-2008

### **LMA/4536 - Black Experience Archive Trust (BEAT)**

Interview recordings by Students of Park View Academy West Green BEAT and MIGRANT MeDIA, postcard and t-shirt. Includes 'Postcode Wars', a documentary film made by the students shown at Fifth Annual Huntley Conference in February 2010. For recordings of Huntley Conferences by BEAT see LMA/4463/C/06.

2006-2012

### **Accession ref: B09/099 - Black Ink of Brixton's collection of Notting Hill Carnival Slides**

1975-1984

### **Accession ref: B12/018, B12/151 – Breinburg, Petronella**

**Alexandrina (Dr)**, author, academic and educationalist originally from Suriname.

Plays and literary manuscripts, correspondence, career and personal papers, photographs, cassette tapes and video. Also Petrojass Publications published books. Includes minutes reports, correspondence and printed material for: British/Caribbean Link Project (devised for Manchester City Council Education Service), Caribbean Studies International Network, Caribbean Communities in Europe, Caribbean Centre Goldsmiths University of London

196- - 2011

### **LMA/4569 - BTWSC**

Brent Black Music History and Naming and Role Models (NARM) recordings and publications. The name of this organisation BTWSC stands for 'Beyond the Will Smith Challenge'.

2007-2010

### **Accession ref: B10/184 - Caribbean Parents Group**

Minutes, correspondence, reports and accounts, supplementary school and pupil records, community case work, photographs, printed material (papers from Willis Darnley Wilkie), 1975-2010

**Accession ref: B10/185 - Caribbean Parents Group Credit Union Limited**

Minutes, correspondence, reports and accounts, printed material (papers from Willis Darnley Wilkie), 1990-2010

**Accession ref: B13/144 - Central London Arts Limited, The Drill Hall**

Production files and posters on Black theatre and other activities, including Black Theatre Co-operative and Talawa Theatre Company, 197- - 200-.

**LMA/4550 - Clapton Youth Centre**

Senior Members Defence Committee and Committee for the Defence of CYC minutes and papers; nightly report sheets; Jean Tate, Tutor Warden (later Head)'s correspondence files concerning policy, disciplinary hearings, papers concerning campaigns and events based at the Centre including Anselm Samuel, Tutor in Charge (later Outreach Worker); the death of Colin Roach in Stoke Newington and Colin Roach Family Support Committee (joint campaign with Hackney Black Peoples Association); New Cross Fire demonstrations; trip to Grenada; related leaflets, posters, photographs and audio cassette tapes.

(Note: CYC was administered by the Inner London Education Authority)

1976-2010

**Accession ref: B14/087; B15/041; B15/163; B16/070 – Grant, Cyril Ewart Lionel (Cy Grant)**

This collection will be catalogued by February 2017 as part of the Cy Grant Trust's project 'Navigating the dreams of an icon - Remembering cy grant through his archive'. Any interested individuals should email [cygrant19@gmail.com](mailto:cygrant19@gmail.com) for further details. For further project updates and further information visit the website <http://www.cygrant.com/>

Correspondence, notes, photographs and audio-visual material including:

Royal Air Force (RAF) records; Drum Arts Centre Limited, Concord Festival Trust; acting career including theatre and film posters and programmes, correspondence with agents, producers and fan mail; writing career published and draft manuscripts; personal papers.

1942 – 2013

**LMA/4522 - Hansib Publications Limited**

Asian Times (1983 - 1997 some issues missing) African Times (1984 - 1988 complete) Caribbean Times (1981 - 1997 some issues missing) newspapers and Hansib's published books and leaflets relating mainly to the Asian African and Caribbean community

1981-2007

**LMA/4660 – Holder, Lorna Patricia**

Jamaican-born Lorna Holder's fashion business archives: graduation portfolio drawings and photographs (1975); Ali Baba Trading Company correspondence and photographs (1976-1978); Davies and Field: drawings, photographs and printed material (1980 - 1985); Lapaz hair and beauty salon correspondence, photographs and advertising (1985-1990); Lorna Holder Couture drawings, orders notebook and photographs (1989-2007). These records were deposited by Lorna Holder as part of Full Spectrum Productions' Jamaica Hidden Histories 2013-2015 project. 1975 – 2007

**Accession ref: B16/064 – Inner London Education Authority: Noel Hardy, Senior Producer, ILEA TV**

Black community programmes and interviews on film and video and related papers

1970s-1980s

**Accession ref: B08/211 - Phoenix, Sybil Theodora**

Minutes, reports, personal files and notes, correspondence, accounts, plans, printed material, photographs.

Organisations include: Phoenix Afro-European Fashions Limited; Telegraph Hill Youth Club and Moonshot Club (known as Pagnell Street Centre), Lewisham; Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust, Tressillian Road, Lewisham including Guyana Connection; Friends of Marsha Phoenix (formerly Parents' Association); involvement with Methodist church including Clubland, Walworth Road, Southwark, and Methodist Leadership Racism Awareness Workshops (MELRAW); Turning Point, a training agency at Goldsmith's College, University of London; Mayoress of Lewisham Borough Council (1998/9), First Love Radio Limited, Lewisham; Knights Institute of Sports; Knights Millennium Foyer; files on

Lewisham Racial Equality Council, Lewisham's Association of Voluntary Youth Organisations, Lewisham Environment Trust, National Council of Women of Great Britain, Women of the Year Association, Married Women's Association, Association of Guyanese Nurses and Allied Professionals in the U.K., Lewisham Youth Aid, Commonwealth Youth Council, British and Foreign School Society, Lewisham Youth A.I.D., Lewisham Council for Community Relations, and involvement with New Cross Fire. 1950-2008

### **LMA/4571 - rukus! Federation Limited**

rukus! Black, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (BLGBT) cultural archive contains collected diaries, letters, minutes and related papers, magazines, pamphlets, flyers, posters, journals, books and monographs, photographs and prints, audio-visual material, memorabilia and ephemera. Collected from individuals, activists, DJs, Club promoters, community organisations, writers, artists and magazine publishers. Includes records of rukus! Federation Limited (2000-2010), Ajamu (1975-2010) and Topher Campbell (1994-2010), 1975-2010.

### **LMA/4573 - Waithe, Keith**

Published recordings of The Macusi Players and Essequibo music and printed material

2005-2010

### **Accession ref: B10/183 - Wilkie, Willis Darnley**

Personal archives relating to involvement in organisations including Social Services Departments at Ealing Borough Council and Brent Borough Council; Huntley-Wilkie Consultancy; Westphi Academy; 376 Hostel; London Link Project; Ealing Community Relations Council); Personal papers including certificates, correspondence, appointment diaries, career papers, audio-visual videos and tape cassettes and photographs. Includes papers of Edna Vinton Wilkie (nee Pierre), wife of Willis, mainly from 1955- 2010

### **Related community archives elsewhere**

- Black Cultural Archives  
1 Windrush Square  
London

SW2 1EF

Tel: 020 37578500

Email: [archives@bcaheritage.org.uk](mailto:archives@bcaheritage.org.uk)

Website: [www.bcaheritage.org.uk](http://www.bcaheritage.org.uk)

- Black History Collection

Institute of Race Relations

2-6 Leeke Street

London

WC1X 9HS

Tel: 020 7837 0041

Email: [info@irr.org.uk](mailto:info@irr.org.uk)

Website: [www.irr.org.uk](http://www.irr.org.uk)

- George Padmore Institute

76 Stroud Green Road

London

N4 3EN

Tel: 020 7272 8915

Website: [www.georgepadmoreinstitute.org/archive](http://www.georgepadmoreinstitute.org/archive)

- Centerprise (of Kingsland High Street, Dalston, Hackney) archives are held at Bishopsgate Institute. The archives have been celebrated in 'A Hackney Autobiography: Remembering Centerprise' a project running between 2014-2016. For further details visit the website <http://on-the-record.org.uk/tag/centerprise/>

Bishopsgate Institute

230 Bishopsgate

London

EC2M 4QH

Tel: 020 7392 9270

Website: <http://www.bishopsgate.org.uk/>

## Further reading

Caribbean Migration Histories Timeline on [Moving Here website](#).

Many titles can be found in LMA library under reference 20.171 and at City of London libraries, including:

Ellis, Barbara: **Caribbean reminiscences: 50 years on: black elderly group**, London: Ellis, (1998) [LMA: Pamphlet 20.171/ELL]

Glass, Ruth: 'Newcomers: the West Indians in London': Centre for Urban Studies (1960) (Report; no.1) [Guildhall Library: L 21:8]

Goulbourne, Harry: 'Having a Public Voice: Caribbean Publishers and Diasporic Communications', which discusses the history of Bogle L'Ouverture Press in detail, Chapter 6 in **Caribbean Transnational Experience**. Pluto Press, Arawale Publications (2002). [LMA 20.171/GOU]

Hochschild, Adam: **Bury the chains : the British struggle to abolish slavery**. London: Pan (2006) [LMA: 20.171/HOC]

Hoyles, Asher and Hoyles, Martin: **Caribbean Publishing in Britain: A Tribute to Arif Ali**. London: Hansib Publications Limited (2011) [LMA to be added August 2016]

James, Winston (editor): **Inside Babylon: the Caribbean Diaspora in Britain**. London: Verso (1993) [Guildhall Library: 305:896]

Martin, S. I.: **Britain's slave trade**. London: 4 Books (1999) [LMA: 20.171/MAR]

Pilkington, Edward: **Beyond the mother country: West Indians and the Notting Hill white riots**. London: Tauris (1988) [Guildhall Library: L 21:8]

Reddie, Richard S: **Abolition! : the struggle to abolish slavery in the British Empire**. Oxford: Lion (2007) [LMA:20.171/RED]

Rees, Rosemary: **Britain and the slave trade**. Oxford: Heinemann (1995) [LMA: 20.171/REE]

Walmsley, Anne: **The Caribbean Artists Movement 1966-1972: a literary & cultural history**. London: New Beacon Books Limited, (1992) [LMA: 45.0/WAL]

Walvin, James: ***Black ivory: a history of British slavery***. Washington, D.C.:Howard University Press (1994) [LMA: 20.171/WAL]

White, Sarah et al (editors): ***A Meeting of Continents: The International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books Revisited***. New Beacon Books Limited (2005) [LMA: 20.171 WHI]

Help us document the history of the Black Caribbean Community

LMA is actively collecting archives relating to the Black Caribbean community in London. Please contact us if you would like to potentially deposit records.

## **About this leaflet**

This leaflet was published in January 2011, revised June 2015 and April 2016 by London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, London, EC1R OHB

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