



Guide to the Gordon Blaine Hancock Papers, 1928-1970

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 2, 2026**.

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Summary

Collection Title:

Gordon Blaine Hancock papers, 1928-1970

Creator:

Hancock, Gordon Blaine, 1884-1970

Extent:

0.8 Linear Feet
525 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

RL.00502

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/hancock/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], The Papers of Gordon Blaine Hancock, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

The papers of Gordon Blaine Hancock, clergyman, journalist, educator, and civil rights spokesman, span the years 1928-1970, and include five series: Correspondence; Southern Regional Council; Clippings/Writings; Miscellany;

and Photographs. The collection relates primarily to Hancock's efforts to increase opportunities for Blacks.

Among those efforts was a course he organized on race relations at Virginia Union University in 1922, which is believed to have been the first course of its kind in America. In the 1930's and 1940's, Hancock became an outspoken leader in the struggle for racial equality, speaking at over 40 black and white colleges and universities. He launched a one-man crusade under his "double-duty dollar" philosophy in 1933, contending that blacks should create an economy within their own communities, thereby providing jobs and better economic opportunities. In 1942, with P. B. Young, editor of the Norfolk Journal and Guide and black historian Luther P. Jackson of Virginia State College, he helped organize the Southern Conference on Race Relations. The conference was held in Durham, N.C., Oct. 10, 1942, and brought together black leaders from across the South. As a result of the conference, the group issued the "Durham Manifesto" in which they set forth the "articles of cooperation." The articles stated what blacks wanted and expected from the post war South and from the nation in the areas of political and civil rights, employment, education, agriculture, military service, and social welfare and health.

The Southern Regional Council series provides several references to this conference and to two that followed in Atlanta, Ga. and Richmond, Va. in 1943. Included is information about the conferences' early leaders and printed information issued as a result of the conferences. The series also contains correspondence and background information about the origins of the Council, and its relationship to the conferences, and to its predecessor organization, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. Correspondents include P. B. Young, James E. Shepard, Benjamin E. Mays, Guy B. Johnson, Howard W. Odum, Jessie Daniel Ames, and Virginius Dabney.

The Writings/Clippings Series forms the bulk of the collection and consists primarily of photocopied newsclippings from Hancock's weekly syndicated news column "Between the Lines," which he wrote for the Associated Negro Press from 1928 to 1965. The column appeared in 114 black newspapers throughout the United States. The articles chiefly articulate the concerns of blacks in American society in the areas of politics, desegregation, economics, and black leadership, though a few relate to broader social and political issues. This series also contains poems, songs, and music composed by Hancock.

The few letters in the Correspondence Series, primarily relate to voting registration irregularities in Northampton County, N.C., and to Hancock's efforts to further social and economic justice for blacks.

The Miscellany Series includes writings and newsclippings about Hancock, a few written after his death; a statement reciting the history of the Richmond Urban League; a biographical sketch of P. B. Young; news columns by Luther P. Jackson; a few of Hancock's sermons and sermon notes; information relating to the history of Moore Street Baptist Church, where Hancock served as minister

(1925-1963); and a few other papers. The Photograph series consists chiefly of two packets of souvenir photographs from Versailles, Vienna, and Berlin.

Biographical/Historical

Chronology

Date	Description
1884, June 23	Born, Ninety-Six, South Carolina.
1911	A.B., Benedict College, Columbia, S.C.
1911	Married Florence Marie Dickson.
1912	B.D., Benedict College, Columbia, S.C.
1912-1918	Principal, Seneca Institute, Seneca, S.C.
1919	A.B., Colgate University.
1921	M.A., Harvard University.
1921-1952	Professor of economics and sociology Virginia Union University, Richmond, Va.
1925-1963	Pastor, Moore Street Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.
1928-1965	Wrote syndicated weekly column for Associated Negro Press, "Between the Lines."
1931	Organized the Torrance School of Race Relations at Virginia Union University.

Date	Description
1942	Helped organize the Southern Conference on Race Relations, held in Durham, N.C.
1944	Helped found the Southern Regional Council.
1952	LL.D., Benedict College, Columbia, S.C.
1962	LL.D., Virginia Union University.
1970, July 24	Died, Richmond, Va.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The status of copyright interests in these papers is unknown. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Gordon Blaine Hancock, clergyman, educator, journalist, and civil rights spokesman, of Richmond, Va., were acquired by the Rubenstein Library through a gift in 1986.

Processing Information

Processed by: Janie Morris

Completed Sept. 16, 1987

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Names and Subjects

- Race relations
- African American journalists -- Virginia
- African Americans -- Civil rights
- Richmond Urban League
- Shepard, James Edward
- Moore Street Baptist Church (Richmond, Va.)
- Odum, Howard Washington, 1884-1954
- Southern Regional Council
- Young, P. B. (Plummer Bernard), 1898-1962
- Hancock, Gordon Blaine, 1884-1970
- Dabney, Virginius, 1901-
- Commission on Interracial Cooperation
- Ames, Jessie Daniel, 1883-1972
- Mays, Benjamin Elijah, 1895-1984
- Johnson, Guy Benton, 1901-
- Jackson, Luther Porter, 1892-1950
- Hancock, Gordon Blaine, 1884-1970

Collection Inventory

Correspondence Series, 1929-1969 and undated

Scope and Contents note

Letters relating to Hancock's work in the field of civil rights. Arranged chronologically.

Correspondence, 1929-1969

Box 1

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Southern Regional Council Series, 1938-1970

Physical Description: 3 folders

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence, printed material, reports, and minutes, concerning the Council's origins and its relationship with the Southern Conference on Race Relations held in Durham, N.C., in 1942, and its predecessor organization, the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. Arranged chronologically.

Southern Regional Council materials

Box 1

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Clippings/Writings Series, circa 1928-1965

Physical Description: 11 folders

Scope and Contents note

Chiefly photocopies of Hancock's syndicated news column, "Between the Lines." Also a few poems, songs, and music composed by Hancock. Arranged chiefly by topic.

Black Leadership

Box 1

Desegregation

Box 1

Economics

Box 1

Politics

Box 1

Race Relations

Box 1

Religion	Box 1
War, Cold War, Peace	Box 2
Warnings to Blacks	Box 2
Miscellany	Box 2

Physical Description: 3 folders

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Miscellany Series, 1933-1970

Scope and Contents note

Divided into two sub-series Other Writings and Religion. Other Writings, 1937-1970 and undated includes newsclippings, printed material, and other papers about Hancock, P. B. Young, Luther P. Jackson, and the Richmond Urban League. Religion, 1933 and undated includes sermons, sermon notes, and a history of Moore Street Baptist Church. Arranged chronologically within each series.

Other Writings, 1937-1970	Box 2
Religion, 1933	Box 2

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Photographs Series

Scope and Contents note

Chiefly souvenir photographs of Europe.

Photographs	Box 2
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