Guide to the D. G. Gibson Papers

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Guide to the D. G. Gibson Papers

Collection number: MS 130

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Descriptive Summary

Title: D. G. Gibson papers
Dates: 1939-1973
Collection number: MS 130
Creator: Gibson, D. G.
Collection Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)
Repository: African American Museum & Library at Oakland (Oakland, Calif.)
Oakland, CA 94612

Abstract: Businessman and civic leader D. G. Gibson (1891-1973) was born on February 14, 1891 in Calvert, Texas. After attending Guadalupe College in Seguin, Texas, he joined the 92nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army fighting in France during World War I. Following the war, he moved to California in 1920 settling in the East Bay first as a real estate agent and then opening and operating one of the most successful distribution businesses on the West Coast, selling subscriptions for black newspapers, periodicals and cosmetic supplies. The D.G. Gibson papers consists of financial records, correspondence, beauty product catalogs, programs, pamphlets, and invitations related to the life and business enterprises of D.G. Gibson.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
No access restrictions. Collection is open to the public.

Access Restrictions
Materials are for use in-library only, non-circulating.

Publication Rights
Permission to publish from the D. G. Gibson papers must be obtained from the African American Museum & Library at Oakland.

Preferred Citation
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Biography / Administrative History
Businessman and civic leader D. G. Gibson (1891-1973) was born on February 14, 1891 in Calvert, Texas. After attending Guadalupe College in Seguin, Texas, he joined the 92nd Infantry Division of the U.S. Army fighting in France during World War I. Following the war, he moved to California in 1920 settling in the East Bay first as a real estate agent and then opening and operating one of the most successful distribution businesses on the West Coast, selling subscriptions for black newspapers, periodicals and cosmetic supplies. Beginning in the 1930s, Gibson became active in Democratic politics. He served in the Democratic Party in multiple capacities as a club chairman, district coordinator, campaign coordinator, county coordinator, and state representative. He was a member of numerous East Bay civic organizations including the YMCA, East Bay Business and Professional Men's...
Scope and Content of Collection
The D.G. Gibson papers consists of financial records, correspondence, beauty product catalogs, programs, pamphlets, and invitations related to the life and business enterprises of D.G. Gibson. The papers are organized into three series: D.G. Sales and Service records, civic organizations, and printed material. The bulk of the collection is records related to D.G. Gibson’s black periodicals and beauty product distribution service and includes financial records, product catalogs, and correspondence related to subscription renewal. The civic organization series includes a 1946 letter from the Berkeley Interracial Committee soliciting donations from members and envelopes of the Negro Non-Partisan League of California. Printed material consists of a funeral program from D.G. Gibson’s memorial service, the pamphlet, A plan... with a future, by the National Negro News Distributors Association, invitations from various Oakland organizations, and a membership application and personal ad listing by the Bronze Key Exchange and the American Colored Club, two African American dating services.

Arrangement
Series I. D. G. Gibson Sales and Service Series II. Civic organizations Series III. Printed material

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
African American beauty operators.
African American businesspeople.
Beauty culture--United States--History.
Beauty, Personal--History.
Beauty shop supplies industry--United States.

D. G. Gibson Sales and Service
Physical Description: 6 folders
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes D.G. Gibson Sales and Service beauty product catalogs, brochures, financial records, and business cards and customer correspondence related to subscription renewals to various African American publications.
Arrangement
Arranged by format.

Box 1:1
- Product catalog 1956
- Business cards undated
- Envelopes undated
- Subscription correspondence 1945-1947
- Financial records
  - Periodical sales receipt booklets 1946
  - Invoices 1953-1962
  - Checks 1943

Box 1:2
- Galenol Company manufacturers of Dr. Fred Palmer’s products 1961
- Newbro’s great queen and tuxedo products undated

Civic organizations
Physical Description: 2 folders
Series Scope and Content Summary
Includes Berkeley Interracial Committee donation letter and Negro Non-Partisan League of California envelopes.
Arrangement
Arranged by format.

Box 1:7
- Berkeley Interracial Committee donation letter 1946
Box 1:8  **Negro Non-Partisan League of California envelopes undated**

**Printed material**

**Physical Description:** 1 folder

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Includes D.G. Gibson funeral service program, a National Negro News Distributors Association pamphlet, *A plan... with a future*, membership, application, and personal ad listing for the African American dating services American Colored Club and Bronze Key Exchange, and invitations to various Oakland events.

**Arrangement**

Arranged by format.

Box 1:10  **D. G. Gibson memorial service program 1973**

Box 1:9  **A plan... with a future / National Negro News Distributors Association 1944**

Box 1:9  **American Colored Club membership brochure and application undated**

Box 1:9  **Bronze Key Exchange membership brochure and personal ads listing undated**

Invitations

Box 1:9  **Let’s jump with Lionel Hampton’s swing book 1945**

Box 1:9  **Y.W.C.A. Public Affairs Committee meeting 1939**

Box 1:9  **South of the border event at the DeFremery USO Club 1947**

Box 1:9  **Wedding reception for Rev. David R. Wallace and Ruby Abdeen 1939**