Inventory of the Watts Rebellion Collection SPC.2019.010

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Contributing Institution: California State University Dominguez Hills, Gerth Archives and Special Collections

Title: Watts Rebellion Collection

Identifier/Call Number: SPC.2019.010

Physical Description: 6 boxes

Abstract: This collection contains material related to the Watts Rebellion, the Watts neighborhood, Los Angeles during 1965, the 1992 Los Angeles riots, and also includes material regarding race, rioting, civil rights, activism, and poverty. A majority of this collection consists of newspaper and magazine articles; and also includes photographs, reports, and other material.

Language of Material: Collection material is in English.

Conditions Governing Access

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Conditions Governing Use

All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Archives and Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of Special Collections as the owner of the physical materials and not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained.

Preferred Citation

[Watts Rebellion Collection, Courtesy of the Gerth Archives and Special Collections. University Library. California State University, Dominguez Hills]

Scope and Contents

The Watts Rebellion Collection (1942-2015; undated) contains 19.33 linear feet of material mostly related to the Watts Rebellion that took place in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles in 1965. Series One contains material related to the Watts Rebellion (Sub-Series A) and material related to the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles (Sub-Series B) and includes newspapers; magazine articles; photographs; material collected from the CSUDH exhibit on the Watts Rebellion; images and a DVD regarding Wattstax; photographs and magazines regarding the Watts Summer Festival; and material related to the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC). Series Two contains magazines, reports, programs, photographs, and newspaper clippings related to events and occurrences that took place in Los Angeles in 1965 (Sub-Series A); and photographs and newspaper articles covering the riots and aftermath that took place in 1992 (Sub-Series B). Series Three contains magazine and newspaper articles regarding race, rioting, segregation, poverty, and other related issues.

Biographical / Historical

The Watts Rebellion, also known as the Watts riots, took place from August 11-17, 1965 in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, California. At the time, it was the worst riot in the city’s history until the Los Angeles riots of 1992. The riots started after an incident that took place on August 11, 1965 when Marquette Frye was pulled over and arrested for alleged reckless driving by a California Highway Patrol Officer. After Frye’s arrest, tensions rose and the situation escalated between officers and the crowd that had gathered. Six days of civil unrest followed resulting in 34 deaths; 1,032 injuries; 3,438 arrests; and cost more than $40 million dollars in property damage.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Watts (Los Angeles, Calif.)
Watts Riot, Los Angeles, Calif., 1965
Rodney King Riots, Los Angeles, Calif., 1992
Race relations
Riots - California - Los Angeles
Segregation
Riots
Los Angeles (Calif.)

Scope and Contents
The Watts series contains material related to the Watts Rebellion that took place in August 1965, as well as other material related to the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. This series contains newspapers; magazines; photographs; material related to the Watts Rebellion exhibit that took place at CSUDH; material related to the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC); and other documents. This series is comprised of two sub-series: "Watts Rebellion", and "Other Watts Related Material"; and is arranged chronologically.

Sub-Series A: Watts Rebellion 1965-2015; undated

Scope and Contents
This sub-series contains documents; photographs; and newspapers and magazines featuring articles regarding the Watts Rebellion; as well as posters, photographs, and ephemera used in a Watts Rebellion exhibit at CSUDH. This sub-series is comprised mostly of newspaper clippings and magazine articles covering the riots and aftermath. Newspapers and magazines included in this series are: Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, San Francisco Chronicle, Newsweek, Life, and others.

box 5
"San Gabriel Tribune" (photocopy of front page) August 12, 1965

box 5
"South Bay Daily Breeze" August 12, 1965

box 5
"Los Angeles Times" August 12-26, 1965

box 5
"Los Angeles Herald-Examiner" August 12, 15, 16, 1965; December 6, 1965

box 5
"Winnipeg Free Press" August 13, 1965

box 5
"Sporting News" August 14, 1965

box 5
"San Francisco Chronicle" August 14, 15, 1965

box 5
"Indianapolis Star" August 14, 1965

box 5
"New York Times" August 15, 1965

box 5
"Dallas Morning News" August 16, 1965

box 1, folder 1
Photocopy of a document dated August 16, 1965 "Discussion and Proposal of California Rehabilitation Program in re Watts Insurrection"; and memorandum sent to Jim Alexander, Cabinet Secretary Governor's Office from William E. Warne regarding aforementioned document August 16, 1965; March 21, 1966

Language of Material: English.

box 5
"Wilshire Press" August 19, 1965

box 5
"Los Angeles Free Press" August 20, 1965

box 1, folder 2

Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 3
"Crisis in Watts is Not Over". Copy of a speech given at First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles August 22, 1965

box 1, folder 4
"Newsweek" Vol. LXVI, No. 8. Includes article entitled "Los Angeles: The Fire This Time" August 23, 1965

Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 5

Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 6
"Life", Vol. 59, No. 9. Includes cover story "The Los Angeles Riots, Arson, Death, and the war cry "Get Whitey" (two copies) August 27, 1965

Language of Material: English.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 9</td>
<td>&quot;The Realist&quot;, No. 62. Includes articles regarding The Watts Riots September 1965</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 11</td>
<td>&quot;New Politics&quot; Vol. IV, No. 3. Includes articles such as &quot;In Defense of the 'New Radicals'&quot; by Hal Draper; and &quot;Behind the Watts Revolt&quot; by Michael Hannon Summer 1965</td>
<td>Language of Material: English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 12</td>
<td>&quot;Ebony&quot; Vol. XX, No. 12. Includes a photo editorial regarding the Watts Riots, and an article entitled &quot;This Would Never Have Happened...if They Hadn't Kicked That Man, Police Action Ignites Fiery L.A. Riot&quot; October 1965</td>
<td>Language of Material: English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 13</td>
<td>&quot;Saturday Review&quot;. Includes an article entitled &quot;Beyond the Los Angeles Riots&quot; by Martin Luther King; and &quot;A Hard Lesson for the Law&quot; by Murray L. Schwartz November 13, 1965</td>
<td>Language of Material: English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 18</td>
<td>&quot;Burn Baby, Burn&quot; [Record] 1965</td>
<td>Language of Material: English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 4</td>
<td>Photographs taken during and after the Watts Rebellion 1965</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 28</td>
<td>&quot;GAB in Watts&quot;, General Adjustment Bureau pamphlet regarding Watts Rebellion circa 1965</td>
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Sub-Series A: Watts Rebellion 1965-2015; undated


Sub-Series A: Watts Rebellion 1965-2015; undated

box 1, folder 20
"Newsweek", Vol. LXVII, No. 22. Includes article entitled "Flashpoint in Watts?"
May 30, 1966
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 21
"Liberator" Vol. 6 No. 6. Includes an article entitled "Why Watts, Again?" by Daniel H. Watts June 1966
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 22
"Life", Vol. 61, No.3. Includes a special section entitled "Watts '65-66. Still Hell to Pay" (three copies) July 15, 1966
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 23
"Newsweek" Vol. LXXVI, No. 8. Includes article entitled "Watts: Everything Has Changed- And Nothing" August 24, 1970
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 24
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 25
"Life Magazine", Vol. 3, No. 10. Includes an article entitled "Watts, Fifteen Years After the Riots, a Look at the Leaders of the Class of '65" October 1980
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 26
"Life", Vol. 11, No. 5. Special Issue entitled "The Dream Then and Now". Includes a brief article entitled "In Watts, The Cry of 'Burn, Bay, Burn!'" Spring 1988
Language of Material: English.

box 1, folder 27
"Los Angeles Times" Life & Style section. Includes article entitled "Words to Live By. At the Watts Writers Workshop, poets turned social issues into fervent art. Thirty years later, language still consumes them" October 8, 1995
Language of Material: English.

box 2, folder 1

box 2, folder 2
Language of Material: English.

box 6
CSUDH Watts Rebellion Exhibit Posters 2015
Photographs and ephemera used during the CSUDH Watts Rebellion exhibit undated
Scope and Contents
Includes National Urban League pin; images of Time Magazine cover (2015), Eric Garner, a Vietnam protest, Freddie Gray, Michael Brown, Walter Scott; and captions used in the exhibit.

Sub-Series B: Other Watts Related Material 1961-2012; undated
Scope and Contents
This sub-series contains a book, postcards, photographs, magazines, and other material related to the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles. Included in this series is information regarding the Watts Summer Festival, Wattstax, the Watts Tower, and the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC).

Sub-Series B: Other Watts Related Material 1961-2012; undated

box 2, folder 3 Watts Towers postcards and photographs 1961-1962; undated
Photograph taken during the Watts Summer Festival August 13, 1966
"Watts: From Riot to Festival" [Magazine] 1966
Language of Material: English.

box 4

box 2, folder 4 "Watts Summer Festival Magazine", Vol. 1, No. 5 August 1970
Language of Material: English.

box 2, folder 5 "Wattstax", 30th anniversary special edition DVD 1972 2004
Images taken during Wattstax 1972
"Wattstax, Crnačka Muzika" [poster from Yugoslavia] undated
Poster is located in Archives and Special Collections storage. Please see staff to view item.

box 2, folder 6

box 4

box 2, folder 7 Photocopied pages from "Watts Stationhouse News", first issue 1978
Language of Material: English.

box 2, folder 8 "City of Watts 1907-1926" by MaryEllen Bell Ray [book] 1985
Language of Material: English.

box 2, folder 9 Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC)- pamphlets, brochures, photographs, and other material 1994, 2012, undated
Language of Material: English.

case 3, drawer 13 Poster featuring an image of the Watts Tower for the "Divine Disorder Folk Art Environments of California" exhibit at the Triton Museum of Art 1985
Poster is located in Map Case 3:13.

Series II: Los Angeles 1965; 1992

Scope and Contents
The Los Angeles series contains material related to events and occurrences that took place in 1965 in the city of Los Angeles, and material regarding the 1992 Los Angeles riots. Included are a yearbook, World Series program, LAPD annual report, images, and newspapers. This series is comprised of two sub-series: "Los Angeles", and "Los Angeles Riots".

Sub-Series A: Los Angeles in 1965 1965

Scope and Contents
This sub-series contains material related to the city of Los Angeles such as a yearbook; Rams and Dodgers programs; LAPD annual report; and other documents. Material in this sub-series is all from 1965- the year that the Watts Rebellion took place.

box 2, folder 10 "Fortune", Vol. LXI, No. 3. Includes an article entitled "Los Angeles: Prototype of the Supercity" March 1965

box 2, folder 11 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power dedication program for the water and power building June 24, 1965

box 2, folder 12 "Los Angeles Police Department Annual Report" 1965
Language of Material: English.

box 2, folder 13 Thomas Jefferson High School Year Book belonging to John Stitt 1965
Language of Material: English.

box 2, folder 14 Official souvenir program for World Series; baseball card for Dodgers catcher John Roseboro 1965

box 2, folder 15 The Los Angeles Rams official press, radio and television guide 1965
Sub-Series B: Los Angeles Riots April-May 1992

Scope and Contents
This sub-series is comprised mostly of newspapers such as the Los Angeles Times, and Bakersfield Californian, as well as images that document events surrounding the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

- box 6  "Enterprise" April 30, 1992
- box 6  "Bakersfield Californian" April 30-May 3, 1992
- box 6  "Daily News" May 1, 1992
- box 6  "Los Angeles Times", Ventura County May 1, 1992; May 6, 1992
- box 6  "Los Angeles Times", Special Report May 12-15, 1992
- box 6  "New York Times" May 1, 1992

Images taken during the Los Angeles Riots April 29-May 8, 1992

Series III: Other Related Material 1942-1989; undated

Scope and Contents
The Other Related Material series contains mostly articles and documents regarding issues related to race, rioting, civil rights, activism, and poverty. Some topics covered in this series include the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X; the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march; the 1967 Detroit Riot; and school segregation. This series is arranged chronologically.

- box 2, folder 16  article regarding riot at Sojourner Truth Housing Project in Detroit circa 1942-1943
  Language of Material: English.
- box 2, folder 18  "Life", Vol. 55, No. 10. Includes an article entitled "The Washington March"; and card entitled "I Have a Dream, Eloquent Plea to End Bigotry" providing information regarding The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom September 6, 1963; 1980
  Language of Material: English.
- box 2, folder 19  "Ebony". Special Issue "In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of The Emancipation Proclamation" September 1963
  Language of Material: English.
- box 6  "Las Vegas Review Journal". Includes articles about Malcolm X February 22, 1965
- box 2, folder 20  "Life", Vol. 58, No. 9. Cover story, "Death of Malcolm X and the Resulting Vengeful Gang War, a Monument to Negro Upheaval" March 5, 1965
- box 2, folder 21  "Life", Vol. 58, No. 11. Includes cover story entitled "Civil rights face-off at Selma, The Savage Season Begins" March 19, 1965
- box 2, folder 23  "FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin" Vol. 34, No. 4. Includes an article entitled "Let's Have a Riot" April 1965
  Language of Material: English.
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&quot;Post&quot;, 238th year, Issue No. 17. Includes an article entitled &quot;Slum Clearance is a Hoax&quot; by Daniel M. Friedenberg August 28, 1965</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>&quot;Newsweek&quot;. Includes an article entitled &quot;Back to School- and Back to Segregated Classrooms- in the U.S. Urban North&quot; September 20, 1965</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>&quot;Ebony&quot;, Vol. XX, No. 11. Includes articles regarding civil rights September 1965</td>
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<td>Language of Material: English.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&quot;New York Journal American&quot; November 10, 1965</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>&quot;Reader's Digest&quot;. Vol. 87, No. 523. Includes an article entitled &quot;Why Negroes Riot&quot; November 1965</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>&quot;Life&quot;. Vol. 60, No. 23. Includes cover story &quot;Plot to Get 'Whitey', Red-Hot Young Negroes Plan a Ghetto War&quot; June 10, 1966</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>&quot;Look&quot;. Vol. 31, No. 13. Includes cover story &quot;A Jolting Turn in Civil Rights - The Negro seeks new answers as he faces the long hot summer&quot; June 27, 1967</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>&quot;Life&quot;. Vol. 64, No. 16. Includes cover story &quot;America's Farewell in Anger and Grief&quot; regarding Martin Luther King Jr. April 19, 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>&quot;Jet&quot;, Vol. XXXV, No. 11. Includes cover story &quot;Do Cops Cause Riots?&quot; December 19, 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Information cards &quot;race riots parts 1 and 2, 1965-1967&quot; 1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Independent Socialist Club pamphlet, &quot;Defend the Ghetto Uprisings&quot; undated</td>
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<td>Language of Material: English.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Language of Material: English.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>&quot;Draft Riots in New York 1863&quot; undated</td>
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</table>