Register of the Charlotta A. Bass Papers

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Register of the Charlotta A. Bass Papers

Collection number: MSS 002

Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Charlotta A. Bass Papers
Collection number: MSS 002
Creator: Bass, Charlotta A., 1874-1968
Extent: 8 document cases
3 cubic feet
Repository: Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research.
Los Angeles, California
Language: English.

Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Charlotta A. Bass Papers, MSS 002, Southern California Library for Social Studies and Research, Los Angeles.

Biography
Charlotta Bass, nee Spears, was born on February 14, 1874 in Little Compton, Rhode Island. She attended Brown University, Columbia University and UCLA. At 36 years of age, she moved to Los Angeles and joined the Eagle later to become the California Eagle. John Neimore was editor and publisher of the Eagle and upon his death in 1912 he left the paper to Charlotte. She soon married Joseph Blackburn Bass from Topeka, Kansas. They became co-editors and publishers of the California Eagle. Mr. Bass died in the early 1930s leaving Charlotte to manage the paper.
Mrs. Bass was an activist who fought against the Ku Klux Klan and racial bias. Her political affiliations were with the Republican Party until 1948 where she had once been the Western Regional Director for Wendell Willkie for the 1940 presidential race. In 1950, Mrs. Bass attended the conferences in Prague, Czechoslovakia on the Defenders of the Peace Committee of the World CONGRESS and subsequently visited the Soviet Union. Mrs. Bass was impressed with the Soviet Union’s policies on racial issues and saw it as a model for other countries:

I will never forget the moment when I first realized, standing there in the great Georgian University, that there is in very truth not even a semblance of racial exclusiveness in Russia.

The example which the Russians are setting in this field will have an effect in every country in the world, including our own. (p. 171 Bass, Forty Years).

Mrs. Bass joined the Progressive Party and ran for Congress in 1950 for the Fourteenth District in California. In 1952, she was selected to run for Vice-President on the Progressive Party ticket.

In 1960, Charlotta Bass published her book Forty Years: Memoirs From The Pages of A Newspaper. The book shows the relationship between the California Eagle and the community which it served. It is incidentally an autobiography of Mrs. Bass. The book is a study of local social history and is concerned with the struggle against discrimination in the workplace and in the community.

In the 1950s, Mrs. Bass retired from the paper and subsequently moved to Elsinore, California where she developed the Community Reading Room on Black and Jewish history.

At the age of 95, Mrs. Bass died April 12, 1968.

Scope and Content
The Charlotta Bass COLLECTION covers the period form 1924 to 1983 and arranged in three series: FORTY YEARS DRAFT AND MANUSCRIPT, BIOGRAPHICAL AND PERSONAL PAPERS and FINANCIAL RECORDS.

The basic and most important feature of the collection is the draft and manuscript of Mrs. Bass's book Forty Years published in 1970. The collection also includes publicity for Forty Years such as the receptions held in Mrs. Bass's honor. There are also loan documents and loan account books. Business cards of the California Eagle, press card, dues cards from the Daughters of the IBOE of W and the OES, an invitation to attend the International Stalin Peace Prize Ceremony, 1954, and a sample ballot of the Los Angeles Branch NAACP Election, 1954. There is a poem by S. O'Brien and Family, 1934, expressing sympathy for the death of a family member, perhaps for Mr. Bass. The newspaper clipping from the California Eagle, 1974, is an appeal to work and contribute to the National Negro Congress-Bay Cities Chapter led by Paul Robeson and Charlotta Bass. The Torchlight is a newsletter and in this particular issue a tribute is paid to Paul Robeson written by Mrs. Bass.

The correspondence reflects Mrs. Bass's political activism. Some of the correspondence refers to Marxism and the Cold War Era. A letter from the Iota Phi Lambda Society of Toledo, Ohio, 1956, revoked Mrs. Bass's honorary membership because her name was mentioned in the Sixth Report on Un-American Activities in California, 1951. Other correspondence includes fan letters and cards from well-wishers.

The collection also contains the draft of a biography and published biographies of Mrs. Bass. Also included are her address books and her campaign schedule for the presidential election of 1952. The memorial service of 1977 in honor of Mrs. Bass is part of the collection in addition to the Obsequies of April of 1969.

Her personal bank statements and cancelled checks date back to 1952, while the bank statements and cancelled checks to the California Eagle date back to 1927.

Most of the photographs in this collection were taken by professional photographers and undated. They probably date from the late 1920s, they are of Mrs. Bass and her activities.

Bibliography

**FORTY YEARS AND DRAFT AND MANUSCRIPT**

<p>| Box 1, Folder 1-3 | Draft Forty Years. 1959. |
| Box 1, Folder 1  | pp. 1-150A. |
| Box 1, Folder 2  | pp. 150-265. |
| Box 1, Folder 3  | pp. 266-415. |
| Box 1, Folder 4-7 | Manuscript Forty Years. [1959?]. |
| Box 1, Folder 4  | pp. 1-107A. |
| Box 1, Folder 5  | pp. 107B-204B. |
| Box 1, Folder 6  | pp. 205-307. |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 7</th>
<th>pp. 307-424.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 8</td>
<td>Photograph Identification in <em>Forty Years</em>. [1959?].</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 9</td>
<td><em>Forty Years</em> Publicity. 1959-1960.</td>
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**BIOGRAPHICAL AND PERSONAL PAPERS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 10</th>
<th>Unfinished Draft and Biography. Author Unknown. 1959.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 15</td>
<td>Tribute to Paul Robeson- Torchlight. 1957.</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 16</td>
<td>Address Books-Small: Late 1940s; Large: Date Unknown.</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 17</td>
<td>Acceptance Speech, Campaign Schedule. 1952.</td>
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<th>Box 2, Folder 18</th>
<th>Poem in Honor of Mrs. Bass. Nd.</th>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 19</td>
<td>Obsequies of Charlotta A. Bass. 1969.</td>
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<td>Box 2, Folder 20</td>
<td>Memorial Service Literature. 1977.</td>
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**FINANCIAL RECORDS**

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Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.--Articles and Speeches, Undated**

Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.--Articles, 1930s**

Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.--Articles and Editorials, 1940s**

Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.--Articles, 1950s**

Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.--Articles and Speeches, 1960s**

Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.--Biographical Notes**

Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.--City Council Campaign (L.A.), 1945**
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Congressional Campaign, 1944  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--in Elsinore Retirement  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Forty Years, Autobiography  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Grand Jury, 1943  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Letters to, Undated  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Letters to, 1920s, 1930s  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Letters to, 1940s  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Letters to, 1950s  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Letters to, 1960s  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Personal Papers, Certificates  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Photographs (of her and others)  
Addn. Box 1

Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Progressive Party Campaign, 1952--Speech Fragments  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Progressive Party Campaign, 1952--Speeches  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Speeches, 1930s  
Addn. Box 1

**Bass, C.A.**--Speeches, 1940s  
Addn. Box 1
Addition

Bass, C.A.--Speeches, 1950s (excluding 1952 Progressive campaign)
Addn. Box 1

Cold War, HUAC, McCarthyism
Addn. Box 1

The Eagle--History of, and Business Records
Addn. Box 1

Fair Housing Fights--L.A.
Addn. Box 1

Foreign Born, Committee for the Protection of
Addn. Box 1

Llano Colony (Western Comrade Magazine)
Addn. Box 1

Mailing Lists and Address Books
Addn. Box 1

Miscellaneous--Leaflets and Letters and Papers (from C.A. Bass files)
Addn. Box 1

NAACP Convention, 1939
Addn. Box 1

Addn. Box 1

Negro Press Foundation
Addn. Box 1

Owens, Rev. John H.
Addn. Box 1

Prague Peace Congress, 1950, Materials
Addn. Box 1

Progressive Party--1948
Addn. Box 1

Race Questions, Legislation on
Addn. Box 1

Race Relations and Black History
Addn. Box 1

Russia, Photographs, 1930s
Addn. Box 2

**Kinloch, John H.--Early Writings**
Addn. Box 2

**Kinloch, John H.--Letters From**
Addn. Box 2

**Kinloch, John H.--Letters To**
Addn. Box 2

**Kinloch, John H.--Re His Death**
Addn. Box 2

**Kinloch, John H.--Writings for the Eagle, Radio**
Addn. Box 2

**Kinloch, John H.--Writings--Long Play**
Addn. Box 2, Addn. Box 2

**Kinloch, John H.--Writings--The Shadows (Novel)**
Addn. Box 2

**Sealed folder: Originals, on acid paper (have been copied)**

Oversize Large Folder

*The Eagle, Dec 23, 1927 (Not Complete?)*