

Scope and Content

The Oakley Johnson Papers, numbering eight boxes, focus on the activities and interests of Oakley Johnson, English professor and civil liberties advocate, from 1946 to 1959. Of special interest are the data relating to his involvement with the Louisiana Civil Rights Congress and his manuscripts of writings on racial prejudice in the United States. The collection is organized into two series, corresponding to Johnson's years of teaching in the South in the late 1940s and his activities after returning North in 1952.

The first series, **Southern Period, 1946–1952**, contains material relating to Johnson's academic pursuits at Talladega College (Alabama), Dillard University (Louisiana), and Tillotson College (Texas) as well as data concerning his role as executive secretary of the Louisiana Civil Rights Congress from 1949 to 1951. This material (pamphlets, transcripts and briefs, press releases, clippings, and correspondence) involves the legal activities of the Congress, particularly its attempt to secure justice for Paul Washington and Ocie Jugger, two men accused, convicted, and sentenced to die on a charge of rape. The last two subseries deal with his study of "Unequal Justice in Louisiana" and general items.

The second series, **Post-Southern Period, 1952–1959**, covers Johnson's teaching, writing, and civil rights activities after he returned to New York in 1952. Notes, source materials, and manuscripts of his extensive writings on civil liberties and segregation are included in this section, together with material concerning a trip through the South in 1957.

A three-folder Appendix is comprised of additional material received after the collection's initial completion in August 1968.