

MEBA Archival Collection

Finding Aid - Joseph Lang Kershaw, Sr. Collection (MS_0009)

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MEBA Archival Collection

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Joseph Lang Kershaw, Sr. Collection

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Summary information

Repository:	MEBA Archival Collection
Title:	Joseph Lang Kershaw, Sr. Collection
Reference code:	MS_0009
Date:	1907 - 2021 (creation)
Physical description:	3 Linear Feet

Scope and content

Joseph “Joe” Lang Kershaw, Sr. was the first African American legislator elected to the Florida Legislature since Reconstruction. Born on June 27, 1911, in Live Oak, Florida, Kershaw was a 1930s Florida A&M University alumni who saw the beginning of football at the college, pledged Kappa Alpha Psi, and worked as a janitor inside the Florida Legislature. After working as a teacher in what is now known as Miami-Dade County, Kershaw was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1968 and served for 14 years. He also served as chairman of the Elections Committee, where his work led to the formation of the Florida Human Rights Commission. Kershaw died in Miami, Florida, at age 88 on November 7, 1999. The documents in this collection mostly pertain to aspects of his personal and academic life and his role as a legislator in the Florida House of Representatives. It also has documents about his father, A. J. Kershaw, and friends/colleagues like Gwendolyn Cherry and Althea Gibson.

Notes

Arrangement

The collection consisted of two boxes and an additional donation during processing. The first box was transferred from the Active Collection Room located on the third floor of the Meek-Eaton Black Archives. It was 0.25 linear feet with some original order to the collection that the archivist tried to maintain during the survey and cataloging process. The second box, containing sixteen items and one oversized item, was donated by Joseph L. Kershaw, Jr. on December 14, 2022, and was pulled from a safe storage area while awaiting processing. It was one cubic foot and did not have an original order. The final donation was made by Joseph L. Kershaw, Jr. and Deana Lee Ponso on February 5, 2024, and did not have an original order. Categories were created to organize new, acid-free folders into an arrangement. The original folders were discarded, and the new folders were rehoused into three boxes. Two boxes were 0.5 linear feet each, and one box was 2 linear feet. The aforementioned oversized item was displayed as limited supplies, and space did not allow placement in a box. Using original sub-headings, the materials were grouped by subject and material type and filed alphabetically and chronologically. While the first box mainly had papers, the second box held papers and small artifacts. The third box largely dealt with too large artifacts for the 0.5

boxes. In 2024, the collection was prepared for digitization after being rehoused in linear feet archival boxes, solidifying the collection at 3 boxes and miscellaneous items on display.

Restrictions on access

Open

Related material

Researchers should cross-reference this group of records with other material in the archives collection. Examples of other collections include the Black Archives collection, Althea Gibson, Gwendolyn Cherry, James N. Eaton, and Benjamin L. Perry.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published

Access points

- 19th Century African American History (subject)
- Florida A&M University (subject)
- FAMU (subject)
- Orange Blossom Classic (subject)
- Civil Rights (subject)
- State of Florida (subject)
- Black Archives (subject)
- Althea Gibson (subject)
- Gwendolyn Cherry (subject)
- James N. Eaton (subject)
- Benjamin L. Perry (subject)
- Florida (place)
- Southeastern (place)

Series descriptions

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
Box MS_0009-01: MS_0009_B01			
	<u>Creator:</u> Joseph "Joe" Lang Kershaw, Sr.		
	<u>Date:</u> 1907 - 2000 (creation)		
	<u>Physical description:</u> .5 Linear Feet		
	<u>Publication status:</u>		
	Published		

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
MS_0009-01-FF 1	File - Biographies	1972	
MS_0009-01-FF 2	File - Books	1955	
MS_0009-01-FF 3	File - Books	1935	
MS_0009-01-FF 4	File - Correspondences	April 1971	
MS_0009-01-FF 5	File - Correspondences	May 1971	
MS_0009-01-FF 6	File - Correspondences	April 1974	
MS_0009-01-FF 7	File - Correspondences	May 1974	
MS_0009-01-FF 8	File - Correspondence	June 1974	
MS_0009-01-FF 9	File - Correspondences	May 1976	
MS_0009-01-FF 10	File - Correspondences	July 1977	
MS_0009-01-FF 11	File - Correspondences	August 1977	
MS_0009-01-FF 12	File - Correspondences	November 1977	
MS_0009-01-FF 13	File - Correspondences	January 1978	
MS_0009-01-FF 14	File - Correspondences	May 1978	
MS_0009-01-FF 15	File - Correspondences	May 1979	
MS_0009-01-FF 16	File - Correspondences	September 1981	
MS_0009-01-FF 17	File - Correspondences_Hate Mail	January 1969	
MS_0009-01-FF 18	File - Correspondences_Hate Mail	March 1969	
MS_0009-01-FF 19	File - Diploma	1935	
MS_0009-01-FF 20	File - Dr. A.J Kershaw_Correspondences	1939	
MS_0009-01-FF 21	File - Dr. A. J. Kershaw_Manuscripts	1928	
MS_0009-01-FF 22	File - Legislation_Black Archives Bill	1969	
MS_0009-01-FF 23	File - Legislation_Signed Florida House of Rep. Bill	1977	
MS_0009-01-FF 24	File - Manuscripts	1980	

MS_0009-01-FF 25	File - News Articles	1968-1974
MS_0009-01-FF 26	File - Photographs	1907-1969
MS_0009-01-FF 27	File - Postcard	1951
MS_0009-01-FF 28	File - Press Pass	1964
MS_0009-01-FF 29	File - Programs	1955-2000
MS_0009-01-FF 30	File - Publications	1942-2021

Box MS_0009-02: MS_0009_B02

Creator: Joseph "Joe" Lang Kershaw, Sr.

Date: 1926 - 1987 (creation)

Physical description: .5 Linear Feet

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
MS_0009-02-FF 1	File - Publications_ Orange Blossom Classic	1938-1939	
MS_0009-02-FF 2	File - Publications_ Orange Blossom Classic	1947-1949	
MS_0009-02-FF 3	File - Publications_ Orange Blossom Classic	1951	
MS_0009-02-FF 4	File - Resolution	1969	
MS_0009-02-FF 5	File - Stationery	No Date	
MS_0009-02-FF 5	File - Artifacts	1969	
MS_0009-02-FF 7	File - Artifacts	1987	
MS_0009-02-FF 8	File - Artifacts	1968-1969	

Box MS_0009-03: MS_0009_B03

Creator: Joseph "Joe" Lang Kershaw, Sr.

Physical description: 2 Linear Feet

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
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MS_0009-03-FF 1	File - Artifacts	1926
MS_0009-03-FF 2	File - Artifacts	1938
MS_0009-03-FF 3	File - Artifacts	1963
MS_0009-03-FF 4	File - Artifacts	1966
MS_0009-03-FF 5	File - Artifacts	1966

Record group MS_0009-MS_0009_03: Artifacts

Creator: Joseph "Joe" Lang Kershaw, Sr.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
MS_0009- MS_0009_03- AR_0009_08_FA_0001	Item - Framed Buwashi	1930	