

# Scope and Content

The Hugh H. Smythe Papers cover Smythe's professional career from 1942 through 1963. During this period his activities centered upon research, writing, and university teaching in the fields of sociology and anthropology, with special emphasis on East Asian and African studies. He also wrote extensively on American race relations and increasingly pursued interests in governmental affairs.

This collection comprises correspondence from 1942 to 1963; manuscripts (articles, books, reviews, and speeches); and material relating to Smythe's many professional interests and activities. Also included are some papers of Mabel Murphy Smythe, his wife and sometimes coauthor, and manuscripts by W. E. B. Du Bois, American educator, editor, and writer.

The papers are organized into the following five series:

Series I, **Correspondence**, is arranged chronologically and, in some instances, topically. For example, several folders contain correspondence relating to Smythe's Ford Foundation grant in 1957.

Series II, **Manuscripts**, is divided topically and therein alphabetically. The specified topics are Africa, Africa-Nigeria, Japan, and Race Relations (American). Of special interest in the Nigerian section are preliminary data relating to Hugh and Mabel Smythe's *New Nigerian Elite* (1960).

Series III, Smythe's **Professional Interests and Activities**, contains syllabi, bibliographies, lecture notes, etc. pertaining to his teaching at Yamaguchi National College in Japan and Brooklyn College. Also included is material illustrating Smythe's extra-academic interests in UN affairs, Operation Crossroads Africa, and civil rights activities.

Series IV, the **Mabel Smythe Papers**, is arranged alphabetically and therein by subject, including personal memorabilia (a scrapbook), manuscripts, and some correspondence. Of particular interest is her research material on segregation in education, which was used by the N.A.A.C.P. legal staff in its cases and was instrumental in the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision barring segregation in public schools.

Series V comprises articles, speeches, and some correspondence by **W. E. B. Du Bois**. This material, also arranged alphabetically and therein by subject, was included in the Hugh H. Smythe Papers as received by the Schomburg Center.