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# **Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies**

### **Title**

The Marcus Garvey and Universal Improvement Association Papers

### **Permalink**

https://escholarship.org/uc/item/9204v1xz

### **Journal**

Ufahamu: A Journal of African Studies, 14(3)

#### ISSN

0041-5715

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### **Publication Date**

1985

#### DOI

10.5070/F7143017032

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Bakolori riot in Sokoto state. Isn't this an element of parochialism? That notwithstanding, the military seemed to have fared better by all criteria than civilian regimes of the first and second republics. This does not imply fan acceptance of military rule.

Regarding style, the book is unnecessarily loaded with Marxist verbiage and rhetoric. At various points of the analysis the author allowed his ideological leaning to colour an objective assessment of the Nigerian situation. Besides typographical errors, one-sentence paragraphs, there are many wrong references, some of which are not listed in the bibliography provided at the end of the book.

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Robert A. Hill, ed. The Marcus Garvey and Universal Improvement Association Papers, vol. III (University of California Press: Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1984), lviii + 811 pp., \$39.50 hardcover.

Scholars of Black political movements are now beginning to reap the fruits of Robert Hill's massive documentary survey of the Garvey movement. The extent of Hill's research was aptly illustrated in volumes I and II of The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers. With the appearance of volume III, one comes to realize, once again, just how vital such documents are to the history of the Black freedom struggle of the twentieth century.

Volume III covers the period from September 1920, beginning with the first International Convention of the UNIA, and ending August 1921 when the second International Convention was held. The documents are arranged in chronological order, the majority of which are made up of correspondence. The vast array of documents dispell the myth that the "Garvey Movement" was a monolithic movement revolving solely around the personality of Marcus Garvey. Materials are included which document the growth of the UNIA in major cities, including Los Angeles; and correspondence is included to and from lesser-known representatives of the UNIA and the Black Star Line in particular.

For students of Black radicalism and the American Left, the <u>Marcus Garvey Papers</u> contains some valuable finds. Correspondence between Cyril Briggs, founder of the African Blood Brotherhood, and Garvey are most revealing. In fact, <u>The Marcus Garvey Papers</u> happens to be one of the few places

Africa Blood Brotherhood documents are available. Also, Hill has provided some documents which give an indication of how the white America Left viewed Garveyism and the UNIA at its height. A circular by Norman Thomas of the Socialist Party surveying the movement, and a speech by Communist Rose Pastor Stokes at the second International Convention are two important documents to this effect.

The documentation in volume III also dispells the myth that the UNIA simply destroyed itself through the incompetent leadership of Marcus Garvey. Rather, the UNIA was under tremendous pressure from the FBI and others who were conspiring against it. Professor Hill included a number of FBI reports and other formerly classified files to this collection to substantiate his analysis. Furthermore, the active role W.E.B. DuBois played in attempting to undermine the movement is well documented. DuBois' correspondence with numerous shipping companies and the New York State Department of Commerce in search of illegalities and fraud revolving around the UNIA's Black Star Shipping Line are included.

The organization of this mass of material is superb. First, Hill provides a detailed chronology of the UNIA and Marcus Garvey for the period which volume III covers. This helps to situate certain correspondence and assists the user in locating relevant documents. The "Editorial Principles and Practices" gives a detailed overview of how the documents are arranged, presented, and how the tests were transcribed. The documents are so meticulously footnoted that the user need not waste a considerable amount of time tracking down names and other supplementary information in order to understand the document's significance. Furthermore, visual paraphenalia in the form of photographs are also included in this collection.

Overall, The Marcus Garvey Papers is perhaps the most important, well-researched documentary survey of any milestone in African-American history to date. When one peruses the pages of the available volumes, one realizes the potential of this collection for providing the basis for a new historiography of the UNIA. It would behoove any serious scholar of the UNIA, Marcus Garvey, or twentieth century African-American history to have the entire series available to him/her. The investment is well worth it.

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#### NOTES

1. The African Blood Brotherhood, founded in 1919, was a secret Black Marxist organization. In the 1920's the organization liquidated itself and its members joined the Communist Party of the USA.