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## **Holt Edgar Ross papers MSS.43**

- Dates:** 1916-1966  
**Extent:** 1 cubic foot  
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**Donor:** Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown, Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

### **Scope and Contents**

The Holt Edgar Ross papers, pertaining to the state, national, and international labor scene, contain correspondence, speeches, poems, legal papers, published material, newspaper clippings, and miscellaneous items collected by Mr. Ross during his career as a labor leader.

Folder A, 1934-1966 contains Ross' personal correspondence and includes copies of letters to him from General Dwight D. Eisenhower (10-25-44) and President Harry S. Truman (1-19-53). Folders B.1, B.2, and B.3, 1936-1939, contains correspondence pertaining to the International Longshoreman's Union. Included are letters from labor union leaders and copies of Ross' letters.

In 1944 Ross attended the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool, England. Folder C contains correspondence (mostly copies), speeches, reports, and published material concerning this trip.

Ross' son was killed while dusting cotton by airplane. Folder D, 1951, contains correspondence regarding Ross' efforts to establish a union for crop dusting pilots.

In 1952 Mr. and Mrs. Ross traveled to Puerto Rico. Folder E consists of correspondence re this trip and reports by Ross on the Puerto Rican labor situation.

Folders F1 and F2 (1956) contain correspondence pertaining to the efforts of Louisiana labor leaders to hold a Holt Ross Day celebration.

Folders G1, G2, and G3 are made up of Ross' speeches (23) and notes for speeches. Included are speeches by Ed Miller (1) and Cecil S. Dearmond (1). Folder H contains poems (8) by Ross. Legal material pertaining to labor unions comprise folder I; published articles by Ross make up Folder J.

Folders K1 through K4 contain newspapers and clippings. Folder L contains aerial photographs of eastern world cities before, during, and after World War II bombing attacks.

Miscellaneous personal items including photographs (3) of Ross make up folders M1 through M4.

## Biographical Data

Full name of person about whom biographical data is needed:

Holt Edgar Ross

Date and place of birth:

1897 Stonewall, Mississippi

Date and place of death:

8/4/1968 Laurel, Mississippi

Names of parents, wife or husband, children, or other family relationships:

Son, Ellis Ross, Dallas, Texas, deceased (October 20, 1968)

Son, Louis Edgar Ross, deceased (August, 1951)

Parents: Mr. Louis E. Ross, Sr. and Daisy Edna White Ross

Wife: Lucy Davis Ross, deceased

His occupation, activities, and place or places where he flourished:

Graduated from Cumberland University (Lebanon, Tenn.) 1924 (law). Admitted to Mississippi Bar Association 1924. Practiced law until 1933 when he went to work full time in the labor movement. He was representative of A. F. of L.; Southern Representative of International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers' Union; 2nd President of the State (Mississippi) Federation of Labor. Served until retirement as counselor and conciliator for A.F. of L. – C.I.O.

Titles of books or other sources where further information can be found:

A History of Labor Unions in Mississippi by Donald Crumpton Mosley, 1965.

The Laborers' Story, by Arch A. Mercey, 1954.

Name and address of person supplying data (and relation to biographee):

Mrs. Charles L. Brown, Jr., granddaughter

Date October 24, 1968

## Inventory

| <u>Folder</u> | <u>Subject</u>  | <u>Date</u> | <u>No.<br/>Items</u> |
|---------------|---|-------------|----------------------|
| A             | <p>Personal correspondence</p> <p>Includes letter to H. Ross from Dwight D. Eisenhower, 10/25/44 (copy) and letter to Ross from President Harry S. Truman, 1/19/53 (copy).</p>  | 1934-66     | 18                   |
| B1            | <p>International Longshoremen correspondence</p> <p>Includes letters from:<br/>           W. C. Bryant, Secretary Tampa Maritime Association, to H. Ross, 8/29/36.<br/>           H. R. Bridges, Pres. Pacific Coast District Executive Board I.L.A., to H. Ross, 9/1/36<br/>           H. Ross to James (Joseph?) P, Ryan, Pres. I. L. A., 9/10/36 (copy).<br/>           Alfred A. Force, Fin. Secre. I. L. A., to H. Ross, 9/28/37.<br/>           Joseph P. Ryan to Wm. Green, Pres. A. F. L, 9/28/37, 9/30/37 (copies).<br/>           Wm. Green to J. P. Ryan, 9/28/37, 9/29/37 (copies).</p> | 1936-37     | 11                   |
| B2            | <p>I. L. A. correspondence</p> <p>Joseph V. Moreschi, Gen. Pres. International Hod Carriers, Building and Common Laborers Union of America, to H. Ross (5) 6/23/38 (tele.), 7/30/38 (tele.), 8/1/38 (tele.), 10/31/38, 11/7/38.</p> <p>Lewis G. Hines, Director of Organization A. F. of L., to Leo B. Carter, Organizer A. F. of L. 6/23/38 (tele.)</p> <p>Gilbert Mers, Corpus Christi, Texas, to Ross (2) 10/19/38, 11/4/38</p> <p>Ross to Moreschi (3), 10/23/38, 11/3/38, 11/10/38 (copies).</p>   | 1938        | 20                   |

Ross to William Green, Pres. AF of L,  
10/31/38, 11/3/38 (copies)

Ross to George L. Googe, Southern Repre.  
A. F of L., 11/2/38 (copy)

Ross to Mers, 11/2/38 (copy)

Wm. Green to Ross, 11/1/38, 11/14/38  
(tele.), 11/15/38 (tele.)

Ross to R. H. Raymer, Secre. I. L. A.  
Local no. 1273, Houston, Texas,  
11/2/38 (copy).

Frank Morrison, Sec - Treas. A. F. of L.,  
to Ross, 11/15/38.

|    |                        |      |   |
|----|------------------------|------|---|
| B3 | I.L.A. Correspondence  | 1939 | 7 |
|    | Includes letters from: |      |   |

Gilbert Mers to Ross, 1/4/39

H. E. Augustine, Pres, Dock Loaders  
and Unloaders of Freight Cars and Barges,  
Local 854, I. L. A., to Joseph Ryan,  
1/9/39 (copy).

Ross to Mers, 1/16/39 (copy)

Ross to R. E. Sundberg, Secre. I. L. A.  
Local No. 1224, Corpus Christi, Texas,  
1/16/39 (copy).

Ross to R. H. Raymer, 1/16/39 (copy).

Ross to E. H. Williams, Pres. La.  
State Fed. of Labor, 6/14/39 (copy).

|   |                        |      |    |
|---|------------------------|------|----|
| C | Trip to England        | 1944 | 26 |
|   | Includes letters from: |      |    |

Ross to Moreschi, 9/6/44, 9/15/44 (2)  
9/19/44 (copies).

Ross to Wm. Green, 9/19/44 (copy).

Herbert Tracy, Publicity officer,  
Trades Union Congress, London England,  
to Ross. 10/25/44

Typed copy of news article re: trip

Speech made by Ross in England

A report to Pres. (A. F. of L.?) by  
Ross re: trip

Misc. speeches

|   |   |      |     |
|---|---|------|-----|
| D | Crop Dusting Folder<br>Includes letters from: | 1951 | 214 |
|---|---|------|-----|

Ross to Dr. John R. Steeleman,  
Assistant to President, Washington  
D.C., 8/28/51 (copy).

Ross to Wm. Green, 8/29/51 (copy).

|   |   |      |   |
|---|---|------|---|
| E | Puerto Rico Labor Story<br>Includes letters from: | 1952 | 5 |
|---|---|------|---|

Robert M. Bathhurst Brigadier General,  
U.S.A. to Ross, 3/12/52.

Maurice J. Tobin, Secre. of Labor,  
Washington, D, C. to Ross, 3/12/52  
(cablegram).

Reports: of personal conferences  
and contacts in Puerto Rico by Ross.  
Puerto Rican labor story by Ross  
giving description of island and  
the labor situation.

|    |                                |      |    |
|----|--------------------------------|------|----|
| Fl | Holt Ross Day (correspondence) | 1956 | 18 |
|----|--------------------------------|------|----|

Robert S. Green, Rec. and Cor. Secre.  
Construction and General Laborers Local  
Union No. 689, New Orleans, La., 10

letters from and various labor union  
leaders in La. Re: plans for  
"Holt Ross Day" (copies) 10/31/56, 11/2/56

Robert S. Green to Moreschi, 11/9/56 (copy)

Charles Bedell, Fin. Sec. City Employees  
Local Union 1069, Baton Rouge, La., to  
Robert S. Green, 11/6/56 (copy)

Lindsey J. Williams, Port Agent,  
Seafarers International Union, New  
Orleans, to Green, 11/6/56 (copy).

Robert L. Soule, Secre-Treas. Central  
Trades and Labor Council, New Orleans,  
11/6/56 (copy).

D. P. Frazier, Business Repr. International  
Hod Carriers, etc., Union, Jackson, Miss. to  
August Rossi, 11/6/56 (copy).

Emile J. Brown, Secre-Treas. Construction and  
Gen. Laborers Union, Baton Rouge, La. to Robert  
S. Green, 11/7/56 (copy).

Philip Piro, Exe. Sec. Building and Construction  
Trades Council of New Orleans, to August Rossi,  
11/9/56 (copy).

Vincent Morreale, Gen. Council International  
Hod Carriers, etc. Union to Robert S. Green, 11/9/56  
(copy).

F2 Holt E. Ross Day (correspondence) 1956 19

John D. Ross, Pres. and Treas.  
International Hod Carriers, etc. Local  
No. 1450, and August Rossi, 11/12/56 (copy).

E. J. Bourge, Secre. Treas. La. State  
Labor Council A.F.L. and C.I.O., to  
August Rossi, Jr. 11/14/56 (copy).

Woodrow E. Broussard, Fin. Secre and

Treas. International Hod Carriers, etc,  
Local No. 762, to Robert S. Green, 11/15/56 (copy).

Robert S. Green to Moreschi, 11/16/56 (copy).

Moreschi to Robert S. Green, 11/19/56 (copy)

Green to Moreschi, 11/21/56 (copy)

Robert S. Green, August Rossi to Union  
leaders who had contributed to Holt  
Ross Day, 11/23/56 (12 letters, copies)

Robert S. Green to H. Ross, 11/28/56.

|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| G1 | Speeches by H. Ross<br>Includes letters to Ross re: speech  | 12 |
| G2 | Speeches by H. Ross, Ed Miller, and Cecil<br>S. Dearmond. Also includes letter to Ross re: speech   | 13 |
| G3 | Notes for speeches  | 24 |
| H  | Poems by H. Ross  | 8  |
| I  | Legal Material  | 7  |
| J  | Publications<br>Published articles, speeches by H. Ross   | 5  |
| K1 | Newspapers<br>Marine Workers Voice, April, 1931<br><br>The New Deal 5/5/33<br><br>A.F. of L. Weekly News Service 4/9/38<br><br>Seafarer's Log 2/24/50<br><br>Miss. Labor Federationist 3/17/50, 4/7/50<br><br>New York Times (in part) 5/3/50 | 7  |
| K2 | Newspaper clippings   | 13 |
| K3 | Newspapers clippings re La. Gov.                      1938  | 4  |



|         |  |    |
|---------|--|----|
|         | Richard W. Leche and labor unions  |    |
| K4      | Newspapers clippings (scrapbook)   |    |
| K5      | Newspapers, clippings, re: W.W.II  | 28 |
| L       | Aerial photographs of eastern world cities before, during, after bombing attacks in World War II (not in folder)   | 83 |
| M1      | Miscellaneous Items<br>Includes photographs (3) of H. Ross, newspaper clipping of Mr. and Mrs. Ross, copies of Mr. Ross's discharge from National guard unit, etc. | 6  |
| M2      | Miscellaneous items<br>Alumni directory supplement from Cumberland University, 2 Miscellaneous items by Ross, etc.   |    |
| M3      | Miscellaneous items  | 8  |
| M4      | Miscellaneous items  | 3  |
|         | Appointment of Ross as Colonel on staff of La. Gov. Earl K. Long, 1956   |    |
|         | Appointment of Ross as Arkansas Traveler by Gov. Orval E. Faubres, 1957  |    |
|         | Appointment of Ross as Colonel on staff of La. Gov. Jimmy Davis, 1961  |    |
| Volumes |  | 15 |

## Appendix

### Books in the Holt Ross collection

1. Auerback, Irving  
Are Unions Necessary?  
San Francisco, California, Plimpton Press, 1954. Autograph by Truing  
Auerback
2. Beard, Mary  
A Short History of the American Labor Movement New York, George H.  
Doran Co., 1924. In collection
3. Citrine, Sir Walter, ed.  
McIntosh, J, reporter  
Report of Proceedings at the 76th Annual Trade Unions Congress, London,  
Co-operative Printing Society Limited, 1944.
4. Cummings, James H.  
Tennessee Blue Book  
Nashville, Tenn., Rich Printing Co., 1951.
5. Danish, Max D.  
William Green  
New York, Inter-Allied Publications, 1952.
6. Davis, Clayton C. & Gerald B.  
Construction Workers' Pocket Reference Book, Michigan, Union Publishers,  
1947. In collection
7. Debnam, W. E.  
Weep No More, My Lady  
Raleigh, N.C., The Graphic Press, Inc. 1950. In collection
8. Frey, John P.  
Craft Unions of Ancient and Modern Times.  
Washington D. C., Ransdell Inc., Printers and Publishers, 1445.  
Autograph by John P.
9. Harris, Herbert  
Labor's Civil War  
New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1940.
10. Johnston, Eric

America Unlimited  
New York, Doubleday, Doran, k Co. Inc., 1944,

11. Mercey, Arch A.  
The Laborer's Story 1903-1953  
Washington, D. C., Ransdell, Inc., 1954.
12. Muller, Alden W ,ed.  
General Labor Laws of Louisiana Baton Rouge, 1945.
13. Packard, Frederick C., Jr., ed.  
Great Americans Sneak  
New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1950. In collection
14. Taft, Philip  
The Structure and Gov't of Labor Unions Cambridge, Mass., Harvard Univ.  
Press, 1954.
15. Constitutions of the International Hod Carriers' Building and Common  
Laborers' Union of America. Washington, D. C., 1956. In collection
16. Mississippi Law Journal, 1966  
University, Miss., 1966. In collection
17. Third Annual Report, Urban Maes Research Foundation, (58-59)  
New Orleans, La., 1959. In collection

## Separation Sheet

### Oversized Newspapers

The following items have been routed to the above unit for appropriate disposition:

Louisiana: Hammond: The Progress; August 31, 1938.

Mississippi:

Canton: Madison County Herald; December 20, 1912.

Jackson: The New Deal; May 5, 1933.

Mississippi Labor Federationist; March 17, April 7, 1950.

New York: New York: Marine Workers Voice; April, 1931.

Seafarers Log; February 24, 1950.

Washington, D.C.: American Federation of Labor; April 9, 1938.

Philippines: Manila: Free Philippines; August 15 (1:00am and 11:30am editions), August 16, 1945.