

# Description and Rationale

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## Title

Preserving Afro-Brazilian History: Abdias do Nascimento / IPEAFRO Collection

## Project Description\*

This project continues the ongoing work, supported by CRL, of organizing and preparing the documents held in the IPEAFRO collection for microfilm and, in partnership with the National Library of Brazil, producing the microfilms. To date, IPEAFRO has delivered a total of 108 films (54 negative and 54 positive) to LAMP/SALALM through the Library of Congress office at the U.S. Consulate in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil's National Archive digitized part of the collection, and IPEAFRO has made digitized documents available to the public on its website.

The collection is divided into five sections: Black Experimental Theater Section, Black Arts Museum Section, Abdias Nascimento Political Activity Section, Abdias Nascimento Biography and Intellectual Work Section, and IPEAFRO Section. Two major sections of this collection have been prepared and microfilmed: Black Experimental Theater (TEN) and Black Arts Museum (MAN); Part I of the Political Activity Section has also been microfilmed. IPEAFRO did the cleaning, identification, description and indexing of the documents. From this information, the National Library prepared the internal informational labels (targets) necessary for microfilming. IPEAFRO proofread and revised the targets. The National Library did the microfilming; the National Archive digitized reels 1-31; the National Library digitized reels 32-39. In this proposal, we seek support for work on Part II of the Political Activity Section, containing approximately 570 items with 1700 pages, and on the Biography and Intellectual Work Section, containing approximately 680 items with 5000 pages (these are estimated figures, based on preliminary sorting of documents).

## Reasons for Consideration\*

Abdias Nascimento (1914-2011) (also known as Abdias do Nascimento), artist, writer, scholar, dramatist, actor, director, and leading human rights activist since the early 1930s, was the first Afro-Brazilian member of Congress with a platform for racial justice. IPEAFRO's collection of documents produced and received by him and the organizations he created has been recognized as socially relevant by official decree of the Brazilian federal government on recommendation of the National Archives Council. UNESCO has included the collection in its Memory of the World Register for Brazil and for the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (MOWLAC).

IPEAFRO, the Afro-Brazilian Studies and Research Institute, was founded by Abdias Nascimento in 1981 with the help of Elisa Larkin Nascimento, who currently acts as the institute's director. IPEAFRO develops educational and cultural programs on African heritage in Brazil based on its work to preserve and disseminate the contents of this collection, which also includes hundreds of artworks: Abdias Nascimento's own paintings and drawings, along with those donated by hundreds of artists to the Museum of Black Arts project, which began in 1950 as an arm of the Black Experimental Theater, founded by Abdias Nascimento in 1944. The arts

and documents collections form a unique and significant source of materials for research and education on race relations, African heritage and culture, and human rights in Brazil.

## Authors

Abdias Nascimento, Leonel Brizola, Darcy Ribeiro, Doutel de Andrade, João Luis Duboc Pinaud, Vanda Ferreira, Antony Garotinho, Carlos Roberto Siqueira Castro, Gerardo Mello Mourão, Marcello Alencar, Ele Semog, Benedita da Silva, Ivanir dos Santos, Edialeda Salgado Nascimento, José Miguel, Carlos Alberto Caó, Djalma Bom, Paulo Paim; other Brazilian artists, activists, journalists, intellectuals, and politicians.

## Publishers

Rio de Janeiro State Government, Rio de Janeiro State Council on Culture; Rio de Janeiro State Secretariat of Human Rights and Citizenship, Democratic Labor Party (PDT), Brazilian Labor Party (PTB), Workers' Party (PT), Brazilian Socialist Party (PSB), Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB); other political parties, government agencies, and publishers.

## Proposal Contributors

Elisa Larkin Nascimento holds a Ph.D in psychology from the University of São Paulo, as well as Master of Arts and Juris Doctor Degrees from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She has written several books, including *The Sorcery of Color: Identity, Race and Gender in Brazil* (Temple University Press, 2007; Brazilian edition published 2003) and Abdias Nascimento biography published by the Brazilian Senate, 2014. She edited the four-volume Sankofa collection (2008-2009) and the book *Adinkra: African Wisdom Symbols* (2009). Her Time Line of African Peoples and Teachers' Supplement is a reference in teaching African history in Brazil. As director of IPEAFRO, she coordinates the Abdias Nascimento Archives project, preparing Nascimento's documentary and artistic collections for online consultation ([ipeafro.org.br](http://ipeafro.org.br)) and serves as curator of the Sankofa Affirmative Education Forum and exhibitions like "Abdias Nascimento Living Memory" (National Archive, 2004-2005), "Africa-Brazil: Ancestry and Contemporary Expressions" (Federal Justice Cultural Center, 2011; Campos dos Goytacazes, 2012), "Abdias Nascimento, the Art of a Warrior" (Brazilian Black Researchers Association, 2018; Maré Cultural Center, 2019), among other events and exhibitions.

## Details and Sources

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### Resource Types\*

- Archival materials
- Government documents
- Monographs
- Newspapers
- Printed Ephemera
- Serials

- Other

## Regions\*

- Latin America and Caribbean
- North America
- Sub-Saharan Africa

## Countries of Origin\*

Brazil, U.S.A., Senegal, Nigeria, South Africa

## Major Languages

Portuguese, English, French

## Source Format\*

- Paper

## Target Format

Microfilm

## Identifiers

## Links

<http://ipeafro.org.br/acoes/acervo-ipeafro/>

<http://ipeafro.org.br/acervo-digital/documentos/>

## Source and Holdings

<b>Location</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Holdings/Range</b>	<b>Estimated Numbers</b>
IPEAFRO, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Archival documents	Political Activity Section (1968-2011) Part II Series: Secretariat of Human Rights and Citizenship - SECID	55 items, 70 pages
		Political Activity Section (1968-2011) Part II Series: Rio de Janeiro State Council of Culture	35 items, 145 pages
		Political Activity Section (1968-2011) Part II	235 items, 930 pages

		Series: Brazilian Labor Party (PTB) – Democratic Labor Party (PDT)	
		Political Activity Section (1968-2011) Part II Series: Abdias Nascimento Political Campaigns	158 items, 370 pages
		Political Activity Section (1968-2011) Part II Series: Race and Political Parties	84 items, 180 pages
		Biography and Intellectual Work Section Series: Correspondence	324 items, 1890 pages
		Biography and Intellectual Work Section Series: Newspaper Articles and Reports	156 items, 400 pages
		Biography and Intellectual Work Section Series: Academic Work	32 items, 580 pages
		Biography and Intellectual Work Section Series: Literary Work	21 items, 550 pages
		Biography and Intellectual Work Section Series: Texts, Speeches, and Presentations	147 items, 1580 pages
TOTAL			1250 items, 6700 pages

### Source and Holdings Notes

The materials are all housed at IPEAFRO. Those contained in the first two series listed, SECID and Culture Council, have been cleaned. Some, but not all of those contained in the other series listed have been cleaned. All the documents in Political Activity Section, Part II have been sorted provisionally into dossiers. Some, but not all of those contained in the Biography and Intellectual Work Series have been sorted provisionally into dossiers.

## Physical Details

In 2012-2013, these documents were provisionally sorted and stored in clean cardboard boxes, most of them alkaline archival storage boxes, to await classification and treatment. The materials include newspaper clippings, magazine clippings, manuscripts, government documents, typed originals, printed materials, and letters. The dates range from 1968 to 2011; however, most of the material is from the 1980s and 1990s. Most of the documents are in good condition, but a significant number are brittle and dry, some with yellowed or stained paper.

## Existing Reformatted Materials

N/A

## Intellectual Property Considerations

This collection is composed of documents produced or received by Abdias Nascimento and/or the organizations that he created or to which he belonged. The materials he collected were donated to IPEAFRO as guardian of the collection. Materials collected by IPEAFRO are the property of IPEAFRO.