



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

John Milton Coleman scrapbooks

1888-1985

Sc MG 417

Summary

Creator: Coleman, John Milton, 1901-1961

Title: John Milton Coleman scrapbooks

Date: 1888-1985

Size: 1.01 linear feet (1 box, 1 oversize folder)

Source: Gift of Ellen Coleman Brooks, August 2000.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Born in 1901 in Blackstone, Virginia, Reverend John Milton Coleman became the first African American appointed to the New York City Board of Education. In 1933, Coleman succeeded Reverend C. Peterson Boyd as the rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, New York. A decade later, he became the first African American appointed to the Executive Board of the National Council of St. Andrew of the Episcopal Church. In 1958, New York City Mayor O'Dwyer appointed Coleman to the New York City Board of Education and he was subsequently reappointed to the board by Mayor Wagner, but had to resign after three years due to ill health. He died in 1961. There are nine unbound scrapbooks documenting Coleman's achievements throughout his career. The scrapbooks contain minutes, newspaper clippings, letters, certificates, speeches, reports, press releases, and newsletters primarily related to his work outside of his pastorate with St. Philip's Episcopal Church. Of special interest are scrapbooks four and nine. Scrapbook four contains letters to Coleman as a member of the Police Brutality Investigation Committee. Scrapbook nine contains a report by the New York City Board of Education Commission on Integration. The report contains a list of members, a questionnaire, and a resolution for action. There are also subcommission reports on zoning, teachers' assignments, personnel, and community relations.

Preferred citation: [Item], John Milton Coleman scrapbooks, Sc MG 417, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by P. Williams, February 2001.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Born in 1901 in Blackstone, Virginia, Reverend John Milton Coleman became the first African American appointed to the New York City Board of Education. In 1933, Coleman succeeded Reverend C. Peterson Boyd as the rector of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, New York. A decade later, he became the first African American appointed to the Executive Board of the National Council of St. Andrew of the Episcopal Church. In 1958, New York City Mayor O'Dwyer appointed Coleman to the New York City Board of Education and he was subsequently reappointed to the board by Mayor Wagner, but had to resign after three years due to ill health. He died in 1961.

Scope and Content Note

There are nine unbound scrapbooks documenting Coleman's achievements throughout his career. The scrapbooks contain minutes, newspaper clippings, letters, certificates, speeches, reports, press releases, and newsletters primarily related to his work outside of his pastorate with St. Philip's Episcopal Church. Of special interest are scrapbooks four and nine. Scrapbook four contains letters to Coleman as a member of the Police Brutality Investigation Committee. Scrapbook nine contains a report by the New York City Board of Education Commission on Integration. The report contains a list of members, a questionnaire, and a resolution for action. There are also subcommission reports on zoning, teachers' assignments, personnel, and community relations.

Key Terms**Subjects**

African American clergy
African American Methodists
Education -- New York (State) -- New York
School boards -- New York (State) -- New York

Names

Coleman, John Milton, 1901-1961
New York (N.Y.). Board of Education

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-2 **Volume 1 1929-1957**
Includes newspaper clippings on St. Philips Church, a certificate of appreciation, and a report from the Interracial Fellowship of Greater New York.
- b. 1 f. 3-4 **Volume 2 1958-1985**
Includes newspaper clippings, a press release, letters, and a brief biography.
- b. 1 f. 5-6 **Volume 3 1888-1961**
Includes sermons and various periodicals.
- b. 1 f. 7-9 **Volume 4 1926-1962**
Includes certificates, an invitation, letters re: Police Brutality Investigation Committee, newspaper clippings, and minutes of the Brooklyn Citizen's Steering Committee for National Library Week.
- b. 1 f. 10-11 **Volume 5 1946-1953**
Includes a biographical sketch, programs, and letters.
- b. 1 f. 12-13 **Volume 6 1950-1952**
Includes programs, telegram, letters, and clippings.
- b. 1 f. 14-15 **Volume 7 1952-1955**
Includes letters, clippings, commencement program, and New York City Board of Education remarks at Board of Estimate Meeting.
- b. 1 f. 16-17 **Volume 8 1955-1963**
Includes letters, invitations, and newsletters.
- b. 1 f. 18-19 **Volume 9 1956-1957**
Includes New York City Board of Education Commission on Integration subcommittee reports on community relations, teachers assignments and personnel, and zoning.
- o. 1 **Certificate and diplomas 1920-1929**
Includes a certificate from St. Paul Normal and Industrial School, 1920; St. Paul Normal and Industrial School diploma, 1924; and a bachelor's degree diploma from Lincoln University, 1929.