



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

Guide to the

**Raphael Philemon Powell papers**

ca. 1932-1994

Sc MG 611

## Summary

**Creator:** Powell, Raphael Philemon

**Title:** Raphael Philemon Powell papers

**Date:** ca. 1932-1994

**Size:** 3.83 linear feet (5 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of DeWayne A. Powell, February 1996.

**Abstract:** Raphael Philemon Powell, a minister and native of Jamaica, served at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Harlem. He received his preacher's license and certificate of ordination in the 1950s, and a doctorate of divinity degree from the American Bible College and Manhattan Bible Institute in 1972. Powell wrote six books, which he distributed through his own publishing company, Philemon. Topics for his books include Black history, race identity, and religion. Powell died in New York in 1995, at the age of 96. The Raphael Philemon Powell papers encompass personal and pastoral papers, professional and legal papers, manuscripts, songs, and poems. Drafts of his unpublished and published writings form the bulk of this collection. Included are manuscripts for three of Powell's books *Human Side of a People* and *the Right Name...* (ca. 1937), *The Invisible Image Uprooted* (ca. 1979), and *The Prayer for Freedom: A Memorial of the Prayer Pilgrimage* (1957). Among the titles of his unpublished manuscripts in the collection are "The Dry Years Addict"; "Biography of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr."; "The Neglected Remedy for Addicts"; and "Who Are You? The Misuse of the Word Black". There is also original music and lyrics for songs composed by Powell.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Raphael Philemon Powell papers, Sc MG 611, 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 Paula Williams, March 1997.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: books and periodicals

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

## Creator History

Raphael Philemon Powell, a minister and native of Jamaica, served at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Harlem. He received his preacher's license and certificate of ordination in the 1950s, and a doctorate of divinity degree from the American Bible College and Manhattan Bible Institute in 1972. Powell wrote six books, which he distributed through his own publishing company, Philemon. Topics for his books include Black history, race identity, and religion. Powell died in New York in 1995, at the age of 96.

## Scope and Content Note

The Raphael Philemon Powell papers encompass personal and pastoral papers, professional and legal papers, manuscripts, songs, and poems. Drafts of his unpublished and published writings form the bulk of this collection. Included are manuscripts for three of Powell's books *Human Side of a People and the Right Name...* (ca. 1937), *The Invisible Image Uprooted* (ca. 1979), and *The Prayer for Freedom: A Memorial of the Prayer Pilgrimage* (1957). Among the titles of his unpublished manuscripts in the collection are "The Dry Years Addict"; "Biography of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr."; "The Neglected Remedy for Addicts"; and "Who Are You? The Misuse of the Word Black". There is also original music and lyrics for songs composed by Powell.

The pastoral related material includes sermons by Powell and other ministers, programs for churches in New York City, and Powell's notes about biblical subjects. Additionally, there are agendas and minutes for religious organizations for which he served, including the New York Council of Smaller Churches. There is correspondence and other material related to individuals Powell helped through his pastoral responsibilities.

**Arrangement:** Papers organized into 4 series: I. Personal and pastoral papers; II. Professional papers; III. Legal papers; and IV. Writings.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American clergy  
Drug addiction -- Treatment -- Religious aspects  
Minorities -- Drug use -- United States  
Sermons, American -- African American authors

### Occupations

Authors, Black

### Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.) -- Church history

**Names**

Powell, Raphael Philemon

New York Council of Smaller Churches

New York Council of Smaller Churches. Drug Treatment Program, Inc.

## Container List

### Personal and pastoral papers ca. 1932-1988

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical information  
Includes birth, death, resume, and schools attended.
- b. 1 f. 2-4 Sermons and programs  
Includes Baptist Church/Seventh Day Adventists.
- b. 1 f. 5 Writings on the Bible
- b. 1 f. 6 Board and service membership
- b. 1 f. 7 New York Council of Smaller Churches incorporation correspondence
- b. 1 f. 8 Pastoral responsibilities 1973-1988  
Includes correspondence.
- b. 1 f. 9 Personal papers 1974-1990  
Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 10 Personal ca. 1932-1990s
- b. 1 f. 11 1969
- b. 1 f. 12 1971-1979
- b. 1 f. 13-14 1980-1988
- b. 1 f. 15 Immigrants (affidavits and references) 1960s
- b. 1 f. 16 Overseas and Canadian 1961-1986
- b. 1 f. 17 Marriage records 1974-1990

### Professional papers 1948-1992

- b. 1 f. 18 National Baptist Convention controversy
- b. 1 f. 19 Baptists Minister's Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity reports
- b. 1 f. 20 Biblical references  
Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 21 Elected and appointed officials 1976-1989
- b. 1 f. 22 Foundation
- b. 1 f. 23 College and university 1957-1992
- b. 1 f. 24 Printers
- b. 1 f. 25 Carlton Press, Inc 1983-1985
- b. 1 f. 26 Book and Musk Publishers
- b. 1 f. 27 Correspondence on copyrights 1948-1991
- b. 1 f. 28 Writings and sermons by others

### Legal papers 1970-1988

- b. 1 f. 29 Litigation agreements
- b. 1 f. 30 Anderson, Daisy Violet 1970-1972
- b. 1 f. 31 Bishop, Rev. and Mrs 1976  
Includes litigation correspondence.
- b. 1 f. 32 Powell vs. Kingdom Roofing
- b. 1 f. 33 Live Gold Productions vs. Powell  
Includes correspondence.

Legal papers (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 34 Powell vs. Violet Morgan  
Includes correspondence about court papers .
- b. 1 f. 35 Powell vs. M.T.R. Painter Corp. and New York City Housing Authority
- b. 1 f. 36 Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development of City of New York vs. Linnette Williamson Christ Community Church of Harlem
- b. 1 f. 37 Metropolitan Baptist Church litigation
- b. 1 f. 38 Powell vs. Morgan 1976-1977
- b. 1 f. 39 Social security 1986-1988

Writings ca. 1946-1994

- b. 2 f. 1 *The African-American: Your Name, Race and Freedom (revised edition) drafts*
- b. 2 f. 2 "The Drug Problem: The Remedy and the Solution"
- b. 2 f. 3-4 "The Dry Years Addicts" photocopy and contract 1956  
"The Harlem Idol: Adam Clayton Powell"
- b. 2 f. 5 Handwritten manuscript
- b. 2 f. 6-7 "Biography of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr."
- b. 2 f. 8 "A Biography: The Life and Love Affairs of Adam Clayton Powell"
- b. 2 f. 9-11 "Adam Clayton Powell: A Biography"
- b. 2 f. 12 *"The Case of Adam Clayton Powell: U.S. Congressman" based on The Invisible Image manuscript carbons*
- b. 2 f. 13-14 *Human Side of a People and the Right Name*  
Includes booklet and University Microfilms, Inc.
- b. 2 f. 15 "The Healing Power"  
*Invisible Image*
- b. 2 f. 16 Proposal
- b. 2 f. 17 Chapters 2-4
- b. 2 f. 18 Chapters 5 and 10
- b. 2 f. 19 Table of contents, index, bibliography, illustrations, and press releases
- b. 2 f. 20 *The Invisible Image Uprooted (revised edition)*
- b. 2 f. 21 Testimonies, book review, and news releases
- b. 2 f. 22 Brochure
- b. 2 f. 23 Excerpts and error sheet
- b. 2 f. 24 Contracts ca. 1967-1979
- b. 2 f. 25 Media correspondence 1961-1989
- b. 2 f. 26 Book orders 1981-1982
- b. 2 f. 27 "Mother Imp" manuscript
- b. 3 f. 1 "The Outstretched Hand of Africa: Memories of Watergate"
- b. 3 f. 2-3 Manuscript on prohibition  
"The (Neglected) Remedy for Addicts"
- b. 3 f. 4 "The Scar of Dry Years"
- b. 3 f. 5 "The Idea"
- b. 3 f. 6 "The Experience"

Writings (cont.)

"The (Neglected) Remedy for Addicts" (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 7 "The Mockery"
- b. 3 f. 8 "The Marriage"
- b. 3 f. 9 "Revenge"
- b. 3 f. 10 "The Trial"
- b. 3 f. 11 "The Victory"
- b. 3 f. 12 "The Scar"
- b. 3 f. 13-14 "No Black White Church" 1984
- b. 3 f. 15 "The Outstretched Hand of Ethiopia"
- b. 3 f. 16 *The Prayer for Freedom* 1957
- b. 3 f. 17-18 "A Philosophical Thesis on the Misuse of the Word Black" draft
- b. 3 f. 19-20 "The Power of Words: Black, White, Negro, Red" ca. 1994
  - b. 3 f. 21 "A. Philip Randolph", co-authored by Powell
  - b. 3 f. 22 "The Rape of Tawana Brawley: Truth or Lie"
  - b. 3 f. 23 "Spirit Power: A Treatise on Christian Healing"
- b. 3 f. 24-25 "What a Shock" screenplay draft 1946
- b. 4a f. 1-6 "Who Are You: The Misuse of the Word Black" ca. 1980-1990  
Includes different drafts and brochure.
- b. 4a f. 7-8 Writing drafts 1957
  - b. 4a f. 9 Correspondence on writing copyright
  - b. 4a f. 10 Publicity
  - b. 4b f. 1 Songs  
Sheet music and lyrics
    - b. 4b f. 2 "Don't Forget to Write" 1948-1951
    - b. 4b f. 3 "The Numbers" 1948
    - b. 4b f. 4 "Apple Pie" 1950
    - b. 4b f. 5 "Put a Dollar on the Nine" 1948
    - b. 4b f. 16 "Loud Mouth Ann" 1948-1950  
"Hey Buddy"  
Includes "Hey Buddy: The Numbers"; "Hey Buddy: Off Track Betting"; and "Hey Buddy: The Lottery".
    - b. 4b f. 17 Lyrics 1950-1971
    - b. 4b f. 18 Sheet music 1948-1971
    - b. 4b f. 19 "The Numbers" sheet music 1948
    - b. 4b f. 20 Poems