



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

Guide to the

Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project miscellaneous collections

1915-2003

Sc MG 633

Summary

Title: Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project miscellaneous collections

Date: 1915-2003

Size: 0.83 linear feet (2 boxes)

Abstract: This collections mainly consists of printed matter on various institutions, including Christian, Muslim, and Jewish organizations, and individuals related to these insitutions. Printed matter contains flyers, pamphlets, newsletters, and articles. Additionally, there are some sermons, letters, conference programs, and budget proposals included in various folders.

Preferred citation: [Item], Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project miscellaneous collections, Sc MG 633, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Art and Artifacts Division: 3 paintings

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: dissertations, microfilm, and microfiche

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

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Related Materials:

See also the following collections in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:

African-American Pentecostal and Holiness collection, Sc MG 325

Andrew J. Chambers papers, Sc MG 443

Broadside collection, Sc MG 929

Henry C. Bunton papers, Sc MG 291

James Alfred Smith, Sr. papers, Sc MG 366

Milton Galamison papers, Sc MG 394

Miscellaneous American Letters and Papers, Sc MG 76

Olivia Pearl Stokes, Sc MG 432

Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project surveys, Sc MG 628

Second African Baptist Church (Savannah, Ga.) records, Sc Micro R-6632

Tyrone Pitts/National Council of Churches papers, Sc MG 393

Will Herzfeld papers, Sc MG 323

Creator History

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture launched its Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project in January 1989 with a \$300,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The second project grant of \$250,853 was awarded in October 1990. In undertaking this initiative, the Schomburg Center recognized the pivotal roles played by religious bodies in acting on social and economic concerns within the African American community, in addition to their spiritual functions. The goal of the project was to create a more comprehensive base of Black religious resources at the Schomburg Center and serve as a catalyst for preserving such resources in churches, religious bodies, and other repositories. The Schomburg Center wanted to develop collections that provided a strong foundation for the study of the spiritual aspects of the Black religious experience while documenting the role of the church in Black economic, political, and social life through survey answers. Additionally, the Schomburg Center sought to be the permanent home for these institutions' collections. A seven-member Scholars Advisory Council was organized, as well as an interdenominational National Advisory Board, along with project archivist Victor Smythe. Two major symposia brought together interdenominational and interfaith audiences composed of scholars, seminarians, clergy, and lay persons from across the country to address historical and contemporary concerns.

Surveys of historical records were completed in 70 churches in 12 cities across the country, encompassing 16 different denominations and faiths. Surveys were initiated in an additional 43 churches. Churches were recruited through mailings, direct contact by the project archivist and advisory committee members, newspaper articles, and radio interviews about the project.

Seventeen preservation workshops were conducted in nine cities involving representatives from churches in 17 different denominations and faiths. Workshops focused on the importance of preserving historical records and offered guidance on preservation strategies and techniques.

Throughout the project duration, the Schomburg Center acquired collections of personal papers, books,

audiovisual material, photographs, and art objects.

Scope and Content Note

This collection mainly consists of printed matter on various institutions, including Christian, Muslim, and Jewish organizations, and individuals related to these institutions. Printed matter contains flyers, pamphlets, newsletters, and articles. Additionally, there are some sermons, letters, conference programs, and budget proposals included in various folders.

Arrangement: Arranged first into three series: (1) Christian organizations; (2) Jewish organizations; and (3) Muslim organizations; and then (generally) alphabetically by institution or individual name within each.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American churches
African Americans -- Religion
Judaism
Muslims -- United States

Container List

Christian organizations

- b. 1 f. 1 **Asbury Methodist Church 1915-1955**
Includes five commemorative historical programs about the Church, located in Washington, D.C. and established in 1836. The programs provide a history of the Church and its members.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Baptist Temple Church 2001**
Includes programs celebrating the 102nd anniversary of the Church and the Missionary Centennial anniversary. Also includes a photograph of women in the Missionary Ministry of the Church.
- Bernard Holliday papers ca. 1967-1990**
- b. 1 f. 3 **Lectures and sermons 1976-1988**
- b. 1 f. 4 **Friendship Baptist Church, Harlem 1986-1990**
Includes items related to administration and mission of committees within the church and flyers for programs put on by the Friendship Baptist Church Institute Biblical Studies.
- b. 1 f. 5 **"Man in New York Project" ca. 1967**
Analytical report written by Rev. Holliday, who served as project director in 1967. The project aimed to interpret understandings, held by commuter college students of the Tri-State (New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut) region, of the meaning of Christian vocation. The resulting interpretation would be used to encourage the students to consider occupations in the Church when making career decisions.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Council of Churches, New York City 1978-1989**
Includes printed matter documenting various projects, related to socio-economic problems in the city, undertaken by the Council.
- b. 1 f. 7 **Black Catholic schools in Harlem collection**
- b. 1 f. 8 **William Faulkner papers**
- b. 1 f. 9 **Legal cases related to selected African American churches report**
- b. 1 f. 10 **Reverend John Mendez papers 1991**
Includes letters, typescripts of articles, and sermons by Rev. Mendez, pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Also included speeches by Rev. Dr. James Cone and Mendez at the Christian Education Convocation in 1991.
- b. 1 f. 11 **Progressive National Baptist Convention 1990**
Includes the program for the Twenty-Ninth Annual Session, which took place in Louisville, Kentucky, August 1990; a copy of the proposed 1991 budget; and the Constitution Preambled.
- b. 1 f. 12 **St. Mark the Evangelist School, Harlem 1937-1986**
Items, including newsletters and letters, provide a brief history of the school which was started specifically for children of color.
- b. 1 f. 13-14 **St. Thomas the Apostle (Roman Catholic) Church**
- b. 1 f. 15 **Union of Black Episcopalians**
- b. 1 f. 16 **Yale Divinity School Black Alumnae 1986**
Includes letters and promotional flyers related to the program planned for the celebration of the 14th Anniversary of the Black Church at Yale University and the reunion of Black alumnae of the Yale Divinity School, held from April 1-6, 1986. Also included is a copy of the bibliography of the Lyman Beecher Lecture on preaching at Yale Divinity School, from its inception on April 12, 1871-1986.

Jewish organizations

- b. 1 f. 17 **Black Jews**
Includes printed matter on the subject.

Muslim organizations

The majority of the institutions are located in Brooklyn, NY.

Muslim organizations (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 1 **African Islamic Mission (AIM) 1989-1991**
 The organization works to promote the tenets of Islam, housed in West African cultural norms. Partnered with Al Masjid, Al Jaami'a also located in Brooklyn, New York.
 Included here are two monographs: *The African Islamic Mission* and *Emperor Haile Selassie Great Nubian Quiz*, 2 flyers, and a copy of *The Cultural Woman* newspaper published by the AIM through 1991.
- b. 2 f. 2-5 **American Muslim Mission 1976-1991**
 Four folders of printed material related to the Muslim American Mission (MAM) and Warith Deen Muhammad's early leadership of the Black Muslim community. Most of the material is related to Islamic Studies that address the needs of Black Muslims in New York City. Some materials address the structuring of mosques and the process of selecting an Imam within the Muslim American Mission. Also included here is the booklet for training Imams prepared by the MAM-Imams Council, a copy of "D.E.T.E.R" (Delegation Established to End Recidivism), a Prison Services New York City publication, and "Dignity" Detroit. By 1986, MAM had another name change and became the Muslim Community in America.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Islamic Mission of America**
 Sheikh David Ahmed Faisal headed the Islamic Mission of America.
 Included here are three monographs published by IMA, two copies of "The Lord Our God is One", and the Institute of the Islamic Mission of America Propagation of Islam "Purposes and Objectives." There is also a four-page memo from Sheikh Daoud to the community regarding elections for the State Street Brooklyn Mosque.
- b. 2 f. 7 **Moorish Orthodox Church**
- b. 2 f. 8 **Moorish Science Temple of America, Inc 1991-1992**
 Includes American Muslim Mission programs from the Annual Moorish Costume Ball and membership invitation.
- b. 2 f. 9 **Miscellaneous flyers, pamphlets, and newsletters 1990-1995**
 From various religious and non-religious organizations in Brooklyn.
- b. 2 f. 10 **Five Percenters**
 Includes newsletters and lessons for propagating the teaching of the group; a number of typescripts on the philosophy of the group; a two page lesson, "General Monk, Monk", from the "Supreme Book of Wisdom", owned by Elijah Muhammad; and newspaper clippings on Brother Born Allah.
- b. 2 f. 11 ***The Ambassador* 1983**
 Newsletter published by Al-Jaami Enterprises for the American Muslim Mission, Brooklyn, New York.
- b. 2 f. 12-17 **Dar-ul-Islam Movement Historical Project collection 2005**
 The Dar-ul-Islam Movement Historical Project collection consist primarily of printed materials including: 6 member biographies of Mahmoud A. Ibrahim, Saluhiddin Luqman Abdullah, Khalil Abdul Khabir, Abdul Malik Ali, Kamal Hassan Ali, and Munji Abdul Raheem Lago; publications, such as "The Dar-ul-Islam Movement History Project: Prologue" (by: Lut Nero, PhD), "A Place of Islam" by Allan D. Austin, PhD, and "Principles, Praxis and Movement" by Kamal Hassan, PhD; flyer; and advertisement. Two other publications included are: a dissertation by Kamal H. Ali, "Muslim Schools Planning in the United States: An Analysis of Issues, Problems and Possible Approaches" (1981); and "The Islamic Political Party of America: Chapter Orientation Manual v1.0" (2005) by Abdul Malik Jamal, .