



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

Guide to the

Anne Forrester collection

1955-2006

Sc MG 838

Processed by Miranda Mims, 2011.

Summary

Creator: Forrester, Anne, 1941-2006

Title: Anne Forrester collection

Date: 1955-2006

Size: 1.13 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of the Forrester Estate, December 2010.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Anne Forrester, activist, political scientist, Africanist, diplomat, and international civil servant, began her career as a pan-African scholar and activist, then later turned to diplomacy. The Anne Forrester collection contains a range of personal and professional materials from 1959 to 2006, underlining Forrester's life long pursuits as an Africanist.

Preferred citation: [Item], Anne Forrester collection, Sc MG 838, 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: Processed by Miranda Mims, 2011.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the General Research and Reference Division: books

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

Creator History

Anne Forrester, activist, political scientist, Africanist, diplomat, and international civil servant, began her career as a pan-African scholar and activist, then later turned to diplomacy. She served as the American ambassador to Mali from 1979 to 1981 during the Carter administration. At that time she was the third Black woman ever to be appointed to the position. Forrester joined the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 1985 and remained with the UN until she retired in 2001.

Scope and Content Note

The Anne Forrester collection contains a range of personal and professional materials from 1959 to 2006, underlining Forrester's life-long pursuits as an Africanist. In the collection, there are documents on the various international organizations that Forrester was associated with throughout her career, such as the African Communications Institute (ACI), the Global Rights Organization, the African Development Foundation (ADF), the Association of Black American Ambassadors, TransAfrica, and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The collection also contains Forrester's academic papers, a screenplay, and published articles on Africa and African affairs.

Arrangement: Organized into three series: I. Family memorabilia; II. Writing; and III. Professional organizations.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American diplomats
African American government executives
African American newspapers -- New York (State) -- New York
African American women
African American women diplomats
African American women journalists
African Americans -- Politics and government
Ambassadors -- United States
Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Liberia
Diplomatic and consular service, American -- Mali
Women in the civil service

Geographic Names

United States -- Foreign relations -- Africa

Names

Forrester, Anne, 1941-2006
Forrester, Elizabeth J., 1916-1991
African Communications Institute
African Development Foundation (U.S.)
Association of Black American Ambassadors
Global Rights (Organization)
TransAfrica (Organization)
United Nations
United Nations Development Programme

Container List

Family memorabilia 1959-2006

This series includes very little substantive biographical information on Forrester; however, there are items that reveal some of her academic and professional accomplishments. The bulk of the documents note the passing of Forrester in 2006, and the activities of her mother, Elizabeth J. Forrester (1916-1991), as a community activist. Additionally, there are Forrester's school-related materials, including a speech entitled "Reflections on Africa", which she delivered at Bennington College, denoting her experiences and life work in African affairs. Forrester's certificates, diplomas, and awards, as well as announcements for conferences where she spoke, are located in an oversized box.

- b. 1 f. 1 Northfield Mount Hermon High School Yearbook 1959
- b. 1 f. 2 Bennington College speech and Northfield Mount Hermon School reunion 1996-2005
- b. 1 f. 3 Press coverage of Forrester's death and tributes 2006
- b. 1 f. 4 Guest book from memorial at National Cathedral 2006
- b. 1 f. 5 Sympathy cards and condolence letters 2006
- b. 1 f. 6 Miscellaneous cards 2006
- b. 1 f. 7 News clippings 1967-2006
Forrester, Elizabeth J
- b. 1 f. 8 Miscellaneous 1960-1992
- b. 1 f. 9 News clippings and awards 1955-1991
- b. 2 Announcements and public events ca. 1990s
Box 2 replaces box 1, folder 10.
- b. 2 Certificates, diplomas, and awards 1959-2001
Box 2 replaces box 1, folder 11.

Writing 1963-2004

This series contains published and unpublished writings by Forrester, both while in school and during her professional career. The titles within this series that are unpublished are: "The Concept of 'Separateness' and 'Holiness' Sect Behavior in Harlem" (1963), "The Trading State of the Nyamwezi, 1830-1884", (1968), "Company Versus Country: a Historical Record of African Underdevelopment", and "The Sondai Fragment" (1975), a screenplay written for her Ph.D. dissertation.

- b. 1 f. 12 Academic 1963-1975
- b. 1 f. 13 Professional ca. 1970s
- b. 1 f. 14 Published articles ca. 1970-2004

Professional organizations 1968-2005

This series represents Forrester's professional career as a foreign diplomat, a United Nations representative, and an active member of organizations such as the African Communications Institute (ACI), the Global Rights Organization, African Development Foundation (ADF), Association of Black American Ambassadors, and TransAfrica. Unfortunately, the materials in this series do not offer a deeper perspective on the details of the work Forrester did during her long career. The Association of Black American Ambassadors folder includes correspondence, bank statements, budgetary information, bylaws, and meeting minutes. However, the documents do not reflect Forrester's role in the association or any of her activities. Forrester served as a board member for the Global Rights Organization (1970-2004), for which there are two folders containing some organizational materials. The first folder of materials was either written or compiled by her; it includes corporation records, bylaws, tax forms, and expense reports on individual countries that the organization worked with. The second folder contains printed matter and reports about work she did in Liberia after the civil war in 2004. The miscellaneous folder contains mainly correspondence (1981-1985, 2004), some dealing with salary and award amounts Forrester received, and a directory for members of the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS). The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) folder consists of documents concerning her posts in Africa, Barbados, and the Eastern Caribbean. Additionally, there are items that relate to Drum and Spear Press including email correspondence, a letter from C.R.L. James (1969), and two Drum and Spear book catalogs.

African Communications Institute

- b. 1 f. 15 Donor correspondence 1969-1972
- b. 1 f. 16 Financial 1969-1972
- b. 1 f. 17 African Development Foundation 1991-1993
- b. 1 f. 18 Association of Black American Ambassadors 1984-1986
- b. 1 f. 19 Drum and Spear Press and Bookstore 1968-2004
- b. 1 f. 20 Georgetown University, "Making African Policy" course materials 1983-1985

Global Rights Organization

- b. 1 f. 21 ca. 1970-2004
- b. 1 f. 22 Liberian mission 2004-2005
- b. 1 f. 23 Miscellaneous 1981-2004
- b. 1 f. 24 National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc 1986
- b. 1 f. 25 TransAfrica 1981-1983
- b. 1 f. 26 United Nations Development Program 1985-2001