



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

Guide to the

William Strickland research files

1950-2008

Sc MG 806

Processed by Lauren Stark, September 2022.

Summary

Creator: Strickland, William, 1937-

Title: William Strickland research files

Date: 1950-2008

Size: 1.87 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Gift of William Strickland, 2008.

Abstract: Bill Strickland is a scholar, activist, and professor emeritus of the Department of Afro-American Studies at University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst. A native of Boston, Strickland graduated from Boston Latin School and Harvard University. After serving in the Marine Corps, he became active in civil rights and Black liberation work, serving as Executive Director of the Northern Student Movement; working in Mississippi for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; and serving as the Northern Coordinator of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's Congressional Challenge. He was a founding member of Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity in 1964, and in 1969, he also was a founding member of the Institute of the Black World in Atlanta. Strickland was a key member of the faculty in Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst, teaching history and politics, and serving as Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Papers. Strickland consulted on various documentaries including *Eyes on the Prize* (1987), about the civil rights movement; *Malcolm X: Make It Plain* (1994), for which he also wrote the companion book, also published in 1994; and *W. E. B. Du Bois: A Biography in Four Voices* (1996). He retired in 2013. This collection consists of the research files of William Strickland on various topics. These topics include the documentary *Eyes on the Prize*, for which Strickland served as a consultant, and Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow/Push Coalition (now the National Rainbow Coalition); Strickland worked on Jackson's presidential campaign in 1988. Other topics include the Black Panther Party, Black Radical Congress, Arna Bontemps, H. Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture), Benjamin Chavis and the NAACP, civil rights leaders and movements, Katherine Dunham, Maulana Karanga, racism, and *Roots* (television program). Most of the files include notes and some writing by Strickland, but the majority of the files consist of printed matter (clippings, articles, mailings, conference materials), correspondence, and writing by some of the previously mentioned individuals. Additionally, there is one folder of correspondence to and from Strickland, mostly unrelated to the research files.

Preferred citation: [Item], William Strickland research files, Sc MG 806, 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 Lauren Stark, September 2022.

Separated Materials:

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.

Related Materials:

William Strickland Papers, FS 159, Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries

Creator History

Bill Strickland is a scholar, activist, and professor emeritus of the Department of Afro-American Studies at University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst. A native of Boston, Strickland graduated from Boston Latin School and Harvard University. After serving in the Marine Corps, he became active in civil rights and Black liberation work, serving as Executive Director of the Northern Student Movement; working in Mississippi for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party; and serving as the Northern Coordinator of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party's Congressional Challenge. He was a founding member of Malcolm X's Organization of Afro-American Unity in 1964, and in 1969, he also was a founding member of the Institute of the Black World in Atlanta. Strickland was a key member of the faculty in Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst, teaching history and politics, and serving as Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Papers. Strickland consulted on various documentaries including *Eyes on the Prize* (1987), about the civil rights movement; *Malcolm X: Make It Plain* (1994), for which he also wrote the companion book, also published in 1994; and *W. E. B. Du Bois: A Biography in Four Voices* (1996). He retired in 2013.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of the research files of William Strickland on various topics. These topics include the documentary *Eyes on the Prize*, for which Strickland served as a consultant, and Jesse Jackson and the Rainbow/Push Coalition (now the National Rainbow Coalition); Strickland worked on Jackson's presidential campaign in 1988. Other topics include the Black Panther Party, Black Radical Congress, Arna Bontemps, H. Rap Brown, Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture), Benjamin Chavis and the NAACP, civil rights leaders and movements, Katherine Dunham, Maulana Karanga, racism, and *Roots* (television program). Most of the files include notes and some writing by Strickland, but the majority of the files consist of printed matter (clippings, articles, mailings, conference materials), correspondence, and writing by some of the previously mentioned individuals. Additionally, there is one folder of correspondence to and from Strickland, mostly unrelated to the research files.

Arrangement: Arranged alphabetically by research topic.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American college teachers
African American educators
African American scholars
Authors, Black
Civil rights movements
Civil rights movements -- Mississippi
Civil rights workers, Black

Names

Al-Amin, Jamil, 1943-
Carmichael, Stokely, 1941-1998
Chavis, Ben, 1948-
Dunham, Katherine
Haley, Alex
Jackson, Jesse, 1941-
Strickland, William, 1937-
Thelwell, Michael
Black Panther Party
Black Radical Congress
Mississippi Freedom Project
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Rainbow Coalition (U.S.)
Roots (Television program : 1977)
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1980-2005
- b. 1 f. 2 Black Panther Party 1969-1996
 - Includes Strickland's notes, printed matter (mostly clippings and articles), and manuscripts by Chris Booker and Ekwueme Michael Thelwell. It is unclear if the latter manuscript was published.
- b. 1 f. 3 Black Radical Congress 1997-1998
 - Includes correspondence and memos, meeting minutes, photocopied articles, conference materials, and printed matter (newsletter and brochures).
- b. 1 f. 4 *Bontemps, Arna. "A Summer Tragedy," Best Short Stories by Negro Writers, ed. by Langston Hughes (photocopy) 1967*
- b. 1 f. 5 Brown, H. Rap (Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin) 2000-2002
 - Includes press releases, correspondence, clippings and articles, and a manuscript by Ekwueme Michael Thelwell (foreword for H. Rap Brown's memoir).
- b. 1 f. 6 Carmichael, Stokely (Kwame Ture) 1966-2003
 - Includes printed matter (press releases, clippings, typescript of book review); notes by Strickland; correspondence; and various manuscripts including a transcript of presentations by Ekwueme Michael Thelwell and Strickland on Carmichael (1997) and drafts of chapter one and the afterword of *Ready for Revolution: The Life and Struggles of Stokely Carmichael (Kwame Ture)*.
- b. 2 f. 1 Chavis, Ben and the NAACP ("State of the Race") 1993-1994
 - Title in quotes is Strickland's own.
 - Includes printed matter (articles and clippings), summit materials (agendas, itineraries, and programs), newsletter, report, correspondence, and notes by Strickland. Additionally, there is a photocopy of Strickland's article, "Criticize Ben Chavis - and Get Farrakhan" (unknown publication, July 17, 1994).
- Civil rights leaders and movements 1958-2005
- b. 2 f. 2 Baker, Ella 1987-1998
 - Includes correspondence, manuscript by Charles Payne ("Strong People Don't Need Strong Leaders": Ella Baker and Models of Social Change"), and a typescript of a 1990 presentation by Joanne Grant ("Film and the Civil Rights Movement").
- b. 2 f. 3 Hamer, Fannie Lou 1977-2002
 - Includes printed matter and correspondence.
- Mississippi Freedom Project
- b. 2 f. 4 Correspondence 1989-2005
- b. 2 f. 5 Manuscripts 1988-1990
 - Includes a 1988 proposal on remembering Medgar Evers and the Mississippi Movement, by Ronald Bailey; "Continental Escarpment" by Charlie Cobb; and various draft manuscripts by Ed King.
- b. 2 f. 6 Printed matter 1958-2003
 - Includes articles and clippings on various civil rights issues.
- Dunham, Katherine 1950-2005
 - Correspondence and printed matter
- b. 2 f. 7 1950-1998
- b. 3 f. 1 1999-2005
- b. 3 f. 2 "Miss D and things Haitian" 1974-1998
 - Title is Strickland's own.
 - Mostly consists of printed matter on Dunham's work in Haiti and Haiti in general.
- b. 3 f. 3 Writing 1967
 - Includes a photocopied version of "Afternoon into Night," Dunham's short story published in *Best Short Stories by Negro Writers*, ed. by Langston Hughes (1967), and a photocopied draft of her memoir, "The Minefield" (undated).
- Eyes on the Prize* 1988-2003

Eyes on the Prize (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 4 Correspondence 1989-2002
- b. 3 f. 5 Hampton, Henry 1992-2003
Hampton was the president of Blackside, which produced *Eyes on the Prize*, among other films and television programs.
Includes printed matter on Hampton and Blackside newsletters.
- b. 3 f. 6 *Eyes on the Prize: The Second Series, 1965-1980s program treatments* 1988
Scripts
 - b. 3 f. 7 "Emerging Voices," #201 1989 January
Includes rough cut, chronology, and list of characters.
 - b. 3 f. 8 "Two Societies," #202 1989 January
Includes draft and character list.
 - b. 4 f. 1 "Out of the Ashes," #203 1989 January
Includes draft and chronology.
 - b. 4 f. 2 "The Dream Deferred," #204 1989 January
Includes draft, list of characters, and chronology.
 - b. 4 f. 3 "Redefinition," #205 1989 May
Includes rough cut, chronology, list of characters, and Strickland's notes.
 - b. 4 f. 4 "A Nation of Law?" #206 1989 May
Includes draft, chronologies, and Strickland's notes.
 - b. 4 f. 5 "Legal Remedies, Who Benefits, Who Pays," #207 1989 May
Includes draft, chronologies, and list of characters.
 - b. 4 f. 6 "Back to the Movement, 1980-83," #208 1989 May
Includes rough cut, chronology, list of characters, and Strickland's notes.

Jackson, Jesse 1980-2008

- b. 4 f. 7 Correspondence and notes 1985-1998
Printed matter
- b. 4 f. 8 *Rainbow (newsletter of the National Rainbow Coalition)* 1993-2005
- b. 4 f. 9 General 1980-2008

Karenga, Maulana 1981-1990

- b. 5 f. 1 Correspondence, notes and printed matter 1981-1990
- b. 5 f. 2 Writing 1982-1986
Includes manuscripts for "Beyond Blurred Vision in the Middle East: Reason as the Corrective"; "Introductory Black Studies Texts: A Critical Examination"; and "Black Studies and the Problematic of Paradigm: The Philosophical Dimension."
- b. 5 f. 3 Racism 1989-2004
Includes clippings, one of which includes quotes by Strickland.
Roots 1976-1977
 - b. 5 f. 4 Notes by Strickland ca. 1977
 - b. 5 f. 5 Reviews and clippings 1976-1977