Summary

Creator: Stokes, Olivia Pearl, 1916-

Title: Olivia Pearl Stokes papers

Date: 1936-1991

Size: 4.5 linear feet (11 boxes)

Source: Gift, Stokes, Olivia Pearl, 06/--/1991

Abstract: The Olivia Pearl Stokes Papers document many aspects of her life and career. The papers include correspondence, writings, files related to her professional activities and private affiliations, printed matter and miscellaneous files.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Olivia Pearl Stokes papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Educator, lecturer, author and administrator, Dr. Stokes is an ordained minister in the American Baptist Churches and is well known as a religious educator.

During her career Dr. Stokes worked with the Baptist Educational Center in Harlem, the Massachusetts Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. She also taught at the City University of New York (City College and Lehman College) and New York University. In 1979 Dr. Stokes founded the Greater Harlem Comprehensive Guidance Center, where she served as Executive Director from 1979 to 1990.

Scope and Content Note

The Olivia Pearl Stokes Papers document many aspects of her life and career. The papers include correspondence, writings, files related to her professional activities and private affiliations, printed matter
and miscellaneous files. The Correspondence includes general correspondence and correspondence regarding employment. General correspondence includes letters from friends and relatives as well as letters regarding her professional pursuits and speaking engagements. Writings include typed and handwritten manuscripts, and research files for both published and unpublished works. Of particular interest is Dr. Stokes' work on African women. The Organization files include material on Dr. Stokes' professional and private affiliations. Among the organizations represented are: Lehman College, the Greater Harlem Comprehensive Guidance Center, the Massachusetts Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, the Abyssinian Baptist Church, Berea College and Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Programs include printed matter and planning material relating to Dr. Stokes' role as a participant or a speaker at various conferences, workshops, prayer services and seminars. The Tours files relate to tours to Africa and the Holy Land organized by Dr. Stokes. Printed Matter includes clippings, articles, brochures, programs and miscellaneous publications. Among the Miscellaneous papers are biographical materials, awards and honors, and prayer services and sermons.

**Arrangement:** Organized into seven series: I. Correspondence; II. Writings; III. Organizations; IV. Programs; V. Tours; VI. Printed Matter; VII. Miscellaneous

**Key Terms**

**Geographic Names**  
Africa -- Social conditions -- 20th century  
Africa -- Tours

**Subjects**  
African American authors  
African American Baptists  
African American churches  
African American college teachers  
Christian education  
Directors of religious education  
Religious education -- United States -- 20th century  
Women -- Africa  
Women educators -- United States  
Women in public life -- Africa

**Titles**  
Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project funded by the Lilly Endowment

**Names**  
Stokes, Olivia Pearl, 1916-  
Abyssinian Baptist Church (New York, N.Y.)  
Baptist Educational Center (New York, N.Y.)  
Berea College  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority  
Greater Harlem Comprehensive Guidance Center  
Massachusetts Council of Churches  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America