



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

Guide to the

Donald Eno Washington papers

1968-1993

Sc MG 495

Summary

Creator: Washington, Donald Eno, 1951-

Title: Donald Eno Washington papers

Date: 1968-1993

Size: 4.8 linear feet

Source: Gift, Washington, Donald Eno, 1993 Gift, Washington, Donald Eno, 1993

Abstract: The Donald Eno Washington Papers have been divided into two series: Personal and Professional. Neither series contains many letters or supporting documentation he prepared for his professional activities. The Personal Papers series includes correspondence with his wife and sons, numerous personal letters from his many friends, a large number discussing his dancing and ability to teach and perform. Other papers deal with his health problems, including complications resulting from AIDS.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Donald Eno Washington papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Donald Eno Washington is a performing dance artist and instructor with a specialty in dance of West Africa and Mali. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, he began studying African dance while in high school. He has performed with several companies, including his own. Washington holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts (1981) and a Master of Arts from Smith College (1983). He held teaching positions and workshops at several institutions and performed in many locations across the United States and in West Africa. He conducted research into the dance of Mali and The Gambia, as well as the link between West African and popular African-American dances of the twentieth century.

Scope and Content Note

The Donald Eno Washington Papers have been divided into two series: Personal and Professional. Neither series contains many letters or supporting documentation he prepared for his professional activities. The Personal Papers series includes correspondence with his wife and sons, numerous personal letters from his many friends, a large number discussing his dancing and ability to teach and perform. Other papers deal with his health problems, including complications resulting from AIDS. The Professional Papers series is comprised of Washington's resumes and incoming letters pertaining to his performances and teaching schedules. His journeys to Africa in the early 1980's are documented by diaries he maintained during his trips. The collection also encompasses papers he wrote about African dance such as the dance of ancient Mali and its contemporary manifestations in the United States, manuscripts and notes for his autobiography, "Dance on the Wind," his notes on African religion, songs and philosophy; and articles written by other researchers. The collection also includes programs and flyers, a scrapbook, and news clippings and articles, primarily referring to Washington.

Arrangement: Collection organized into two series: I Personal Papers; II Professional Papers

Key Terms

Subjects

African American dancers
African Americans in the performing arts
Dance -- Africa
Dance -- Study and teaching -- United States
Dance, Black
Dancers -- United States

Names

Washington, Donald Eno, 1951-