Summary

Creator: Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project

Title: Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection

Date: 1982-2001

Size: .2 linear feet

Abstract: The Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project was created by Oberlin College alumna Michon Boston in 1982 to collect and document the college experiences of living black graduates. The study was done following the College’s sesquicentennial celebration. Oberlin admitted women in 1835 and was the first American college to admit blacks, also in the nineteenth century. The women included in this survey were graduated between 1923 and 1979. The Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection consists of fifty-three questionnaires. The information gathered in the questionnaires ranges from issues about college life to race, gender, and personal and professional backgrounds, including participation in community activities. There is data concerning the campus lives of these women, especially the relationship between blacks and whites and other minority groups, the unity of black students, black student organizations, the concerns of black students on campus, affirmative action, and the general feelings about being black women in a predominately white college, spanning six decades.

Access: Some collections held by the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in the NYPL’s online catalog for detailed location information. To request access to materials in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, please visit: http://archives.nypl.org/divisions/scm/request_access

Preferred citation: [Item], Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection, Sc MG 580, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Creator History

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was done following the College's sesquicentennial celebration. Oberlin admitted women in 1835 and was the first American college to admit blacks, also in the nineteenth century. The women included in this survey were graduated between 1923 and 1979.

Scope and Content Note

The Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project collection consists of fifty-three questionnaires. The information gathered in the questionnaires ranges from issues about college life to race, gender, and personal and professional backgrounds, including participation in community activities. There is data concerning the campus lives of these women, especially the relationship between blacks and whites and other minority groups, the unity of black students, black student organizations, the concerns of black students on campus, affirmative action, and the general feelings about being black women in a predominately white college, spanning six decades.

In addition to the questionnaires for Boston's project, there is a photocopy of a questionnaire completed by Anna Julia Cooper, an educator and 1884 Oberlin graduate, on which Boston's questionnaire was based. The Cooper manuscript collection at the Moorland Spingarn Research Center at Howard University contains her questionnaire from a survey with which the sociologist Charles S. Johnson was involved, entitled "Negro College Graduates." An article by Boston, "A Matter of Race and Sex: Black Women at Oberlin College" summarizing her research results is also included in the collection (1983).

Key Terms

Subjects
African American college students -- Ohio -- Oberlin
African American girls -- Education
African American students -- Ohio -- Oberlin
African American women -- Education
College students -- Ohio -- Oberlin
Women college students -- Ohio -- Oberlin

Genre/Physical Characteristic
Questionnaires

Names
Cooper, Anna Julia
Black Women at Oberlin College Survey Project
Oberlin College