



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

Guide to the

Marvel Cooke oral history interview

1989-1992

Sc MG 859

Summary

Creator: Cooke, Marvel Jackson, 1903-2000

Title: Marvel Cooke oral history interview

Date: 1989-1992

Size: 2 folders

Source: Gift of Roger Wilkins, 2012.

Abstract: Marvel Cooke was a newspaper editor, publisher, magazine and journal editor, and print journalist. Born in April 1903, in Mankato, Minnesota, Cooke attended the University of Minnesota. She became an editorial assistant of the *Crisis* in New York (1925) and was the secretary to the women's editor at the *Amsterdam News* in 1928, where she also became the first female news reporter. In 1936, she joined the Communist Party and became the assistant managing editor of the *People's Voice*, a militant newspaper, in 1942. Cooke also was a reporter for the *Daily Compass* in New York (1950); the national legal defense secretary for the Angela Davis Defense Committee (1969); and the national vice chair of the National Council for American-Soviet Friendship (1980s). Cooke died in November 2000 in New York, New York. This collection includes an interview transcript with Marvel Cooke, conducted by Kathleen Currie, for the Washington Press Club Foundation project, "Women in Journalism". It was recorded in 1989. Additionally, there is correspondence between Cooke and the Foundation and a typescript draft of "Marvel Cooke: An African American Woman Journalist Who Agitated for Racial Reform" by Rodger Allan Streitmatter and Barbara Diggs-Brown for *Afro-Americans in New York Life and History*, #16 (July 1992).

Preferred citation: [Item], Marvel Cooke oral history interview, Sc MG 859, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Marvel Cooke was a newspaper editor, publisher, magazine and journal editor, and print journalist. Born in April 1903, in Mankato, Minnesota, Cooke attended the University of Minnesota. She became an

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Scope and Content Note

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Key Terms

Subjects

African American women authors
African American women journalists

Names

Cooke, Marvel Jackson, 1903-2000