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Guide to the

Helene Southern Slater oral history

ca. 1994-1997

Sc MG 706

Summary

Author: Maruca, Janice

Title: Helene Southern Slater oral history

Date: ca. 1994-1997

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Janice Maruca, 2002.

Abstract: This collection consists of transcripts, drafts, and the final publication of a biography of Helene Southern Slater by Janice Maruca.

Preferred citation: [Item], Helene Southern Slater oral history, Sc MG 706, 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

Janice Maruca is the author of *Helene Southern Slater: Footprints, a First Person Biography*, published by *20th Century Women: A Journal of First Person Biography*, vol. 7.

Helene Southern Slater worked as a newspaper reporter and civil servant before starting her own public relations firm. Slater was raised in Philadelphia, by a single father after her mother died when she was five. She attended Howard University for one year before having to drop out when her father lost his earnings in the economic crash of 1929. Slater returned to Philadelphia and worked as a report for the *Philadelphia Independent*, the *Baltimore Afro-American*, and the Philadelphia edition of the *Chicago Defender*. She shifted to civil service work, first with the Workmen's Unemployment Compensaton Board, followed by the State Employment Service, and the Civil Service Commission in Washington, DC. She worked for the Russian government for a time during World War II. In 1955, she received her Bachelor's degree in public relations from the New School in New York City, and started Southern-Slater Enterprises, Public Relations and Agents, with her then-husband, musician Chester Slater. She worked in the public relations field for thirty years. Additionally, she was a founding member

of the National Association of Media Women, board member of the New Harlem YWCA, and member of the National Council of Negro Women, among others.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of transcripts, drafts, and the final publication of a biography of Helene Southern Slater by Janice Maruca.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American women journalists
Public relations

Occupations

Publicists.

Names

Maruca, Janice
Slater, Helene Southern, 1913-
National Association of Media Women

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 *Chapter 1 manuscript and final copy of Helene Southern Slater: Footprints, a First Person Biography*
- b. 1 f. 2 Transcripts of oral history interviews 1994-1997
Dates encompass when transcripts were collected.
- b. 1 f. 3 Manuscript (possibly complete)