



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

Guide to the

Melva L. Price papers

1910-1991

Sc MG 596

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Summary

Creator: Price, Melva L., 1902-1996

Title: Melva L. Price papers

Date: 1910-1991

Size: 1.04 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Gift, Elosie Coleman, December 1996

Revision History: This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

Abstract: The collection consists of the papers, 1910-1991, of Melva L. Price, a professional educator, community activist, and performing arts supporter, who lived in Harlem most of her life. The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence to and from Price, and includes letters from friends, colleagues and officials of the organizations to which Price belonged. There are also personal diaries, 1922-1936 (scattered); two of Price's grade-school notebooks; autograph books for 1916 and 1920; and souvenir journals from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Mississippi Health Project (1930s) for which Price did field work, collecting data and giving support to the medical team.

Preferred citation: [Item], Melva L. Price papers, Sc MG 596, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Separated Materials:

Photographs transferred to Photographs and Prints Division.

Television program transcripts transferred to the General Research and Reference Division.

Creator History

Melva L. Price was raised in New York City and lived there until her death. After graduating from Hunter College in 1924, she went on to become a teacher in the New York City public schools, at the high

school level. During her career as a teacher, Price would teach at P.S. 157, James Madison, Wadleigh, Theodore Roosevelt, Morris and New Dorp high schools. Her area of specialty was languages, including Latin. She retired from teaching in 1960 after 36 years of service.

Price had a large circle of friends, among whom were Juliette Derricotte, the George Schuyler family, Winifred (Willis) Speaks, Marian Anderson, and Paul Robeson. It was also common practice for her to maintain correspondence with a number of her former students. She was an active member in many local and national organizations, which included Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Kappa Alpha. Additionally, her social and community activities extended to the labor movement; for many years, Price was a representative for the Teacher's Union and Teachers Retirement Fund. As executive secretary for the Negro People's Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, Price planned, coordinated and hosted several political awareness and fund raising functions for the group.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers, 1910-1991, of Melva L. Price, a professional educator, community activist, and performing arts supporter, who lived in Harlem most of her life. The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence to and from Price, and includes letters from friends, colleagues and officials of the organizations to which Price belonged. There are also personal diaries, 1922-1936 (scattered); two of Price's grade-school notebooks; autograph books for 1916 and 1920; and souvenir journals from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Mississippi Health Project (1930s) for which Price did field work, collecting data and giving support to the medical team.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American labor union members
African American women educators -- New York (State) -- New York
African American women teachers -- New York (State) -- New York
Education -- New York (State) -- New York
Teachers -- Correspondence

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries

Names

Price, Melva L., 1902-1996

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Grade Reports and Transcripts 1910-1940
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1920-1980
- b. 1 f. 3 Volume Library (Educators Association) Employment & Training Packet 1924
- b. 1 f. 4 Certificates and Licenses 1924-1960
- b. 1 f. 5 Classroom Teacher Evaluations 1924-1958
- b. 1 f. 6 Individual Rating Reports 1925-1960
- b. 1 f. 7 Retirement & Leaves of Absences 1929-1962
- b. 1 f. 8 Juliette Derricotte 1932
- b. 1 f. 9 Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) 1934-1938
- b. 1 f. 10 AKA Mississippi Health Project 1937-1938
- b. 2 f. 1 Negro People's Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy 1938-1943
- b. 2 f. 2 Community Action and History 1939-1991
- b. 2 f. 3 Negro History and Culture Association 1940-1953
- b. 2 f. 4 Judge and Mrs. Warning (South Carolina) 1950-1952
- b. 2 f. 5 American Committee on Africa 1951-1962
- b. 2 f. 6 New Dorp High School (Staten Island) Racial Incident 1980
- b. 2 f. 7 Other Language Writings, Undated
- b. 3 Diaries 1922-1936
 - v. 1-3
- b. 3 f. 1
 - b. 3 Autograph Books 1916-1920
 - v. 4-5
- b. 3 f. 2 School Notebooks