



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

Guide to the

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority scrapbook

1942-1996

Sc MG 592

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

Summary

Creator: Johnson, Othella, 1910-1988

Title: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority scrapbook

Date: 1942-1996

Size: 0.46 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift, Morningside Retirement and Health Services, Inc., July 1996

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

Abstract: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is the first African American Greek Sorority. It was founded in 1908, by nine college students on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C. AKA currently have members in graduate and undergraduate chapters across the world. Their mission is to encourage high scholastics and ethical standards, promote sisterhood, and help young girls and women to improve their social stature. The Alpha Kappa Alpha scrapbook was compiled by Othella Oglesby Johnson (1910-1988), an Alpha Kappa Alpha soror and string and vocal instructor at Public Schools 119 and 129 in New York City. The scrapbook consists of historical and biographical information related to the sorority, its members and activities, including regional and national conferences, anti-discrimination drives and fund raisers. Included are news clippings, programs, photographs, letters, probation and pledge primers and booklets containing sorority poetry, songs, and yells. Letters to Johnson from the period of her pledge years with the Beta Nu Chapter in St. Pittsburg, Kansas are included.

Preferred citation: [Item], Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority scrapbook, Sc MG 592, 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

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) is the first African American Greek Sorority. It was founded in 1908, by nine college students on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C.

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Scope and Content Note

The Alpha Kappa Alpha scrapbook was compiled by Othella Oglesby Johnson (1910-1988), an Alpha Kappa Alpha soror and string and vocal instructor at Public Schools 119 and 129 in New York City. The scrapbook consists of historical and biographical information related to the sorority, its members and activities, including regional and national conferences, anti-discrimination drives and fund raisers. Included are news clippings, programs, photographs, letters, probation and pledge primers and booklets containing sorority poetry, songs, and yells. Letters to Johnson from the period of her pledge years with the Beta Nu Chapter in St. Pittsburg, Kansas are included.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American fraternal organizations
African American Greek letter societies
African American women -- Societies and clubs
Greek letter societies -- United States -- History
Women in charitable work -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Fliers (printed matter)
Newsletters
Scrapbooks
Sheet music

Names

Johnson, Othella, 1910-1988
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Container List

- b. 1 Scrapbook pages
- b. 2 Scrapbook binder