



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

Guide to the

Wilmer Ames Papers

1977 - 1993 [bulk 1986 - 1992]

Sc MG 476

Summary

Creator: Ames, Wilmer

Title: Wilmer Ames Papers

Date: 1977 - 1993 [bulk 1986 - 1992]

Size: 7.67 linear feet (23 archival boxes)

Source: Gift of Wilmer Ames, December 1992.

Abstract: Born in 1950 in Nassawadox, Virginia, Wilmer Ames was best known as the founder and editor-in-chief of *Emerge*, a monthly newsmagazine which addressed social, political, and economic issues from a black perspective. Ames received his BA from Lincoln University and his MA from Columbia University's School of Journalism. He studied medicine at Rutgers University for two years before returning to journalism. Ames also worked as a reporter and freelancer for a number of publications before he founded *Emerge*, including *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, *GQ*, and *New York* magazines. *Emerge* targeted upwardly mobile blacks and covered popular news stories of the day, as well as in-depth portraits of leading figures in the 1990s such as Louis Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson, and Clarence Thomas. The collection contains biographical information on Ames; published articles and research materials for *Time* and *Sports Illustrated*; typescripts for a pilot television series; personal and professional correspondence with editors; reviews; and a manuscript for the book *Chuck Norris: Being Physically and Mentally Fit* (which he co-authored). The bulk of the collection concerns the formation and development of *Emerge*. Found here are board minutes and memoranda, detailed plans, proposals, financial records, advertising and marketing plans, and articles submitted to and published in the magazine.

Preferred citation: [Item], Wilmer Ames Papers, Sc MG 476, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Steven G. Fullwood and Artis Q. Wright on March 30, 2008.

Creator History

Born in 1950 in Nassawadox, Virginia, Wilmer Ames was best known as the founder and editor-in-chief of *Emerge*, a monthly newsmagazine which addressed social, political, and economic issues from a black perspective. Ames received his BA from Lincoln University and his MA from Columbia University's School of Journalism. He studied medicine at Rutgers University for two years before returning to journalism. Ames also worked as a reporter and freelancer for a number of publications before he founded *Emerge*, including *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, *GQ*, and *New York* magazines. *Emerge* targeted upwardly mobile blacks and covered popular news stories of the day, as well as in-depth portraits of leading figures in the 1990s such as Louis Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson, and Clarence Thomas.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains biographical information on Ames; published articles and research materials for *Time* and *Sports Illustrated*; typescripts for a pilot television series; personal and professional correspondence with editors; reviews; and a manuscript for the book *Chuck Norris: Being Physically and Mentally Fit* (which he co-authored). The bulk of the collection concerns the formation and development of *Emerge*. Found here are board minutes and memoranda, detailed plans, proposals, financial records, advertising and marketing plans, and articles submitted to and published in the magazine.

Arrangement: Arranged into two series: (1) Wilmer Ames and (2) *Emerge* Newsmagazine.

Key Terms

Names

Ames, Wilmer

Container List

Wilmer Ames

- b. 1 Biographical information
- Writing
 - b. 1 A-E
 - b. 2 E-L
 - b. 3 L-P
 - b. 4 S-W
 - b. 5 Series treatments
 - b. 6 Speeches
 - b. 6 *Chuck Norris: Being Physically and Mentally Fit manuscript*
 - b. 7 Miscellaneous
 - b. 8 *Apollo Magazine files*
 - b. 9 Correspondence 1977 - 1986
- Emerge Newsmagazine*
 - b. 10 Certificates of Incorporation
 - b. 11 Board records
 - Correspondence
 - b. 12 1985 - 1989
 - b. 13 1989 - 1991
 - b. 14 1991 - 1993
- b. 15-19 Proposals
 - b. 20 Financial material and demographic statistics
 - b. 21
 - b. 22 Advertising, publicity, and marketing
 - b. 23