



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

Guide to the

Middleton A. "Spike" Harris letters

1967-1975

Sc MG 215

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

Summary

Creator: Harris, M. A., 1908-1977

Title: Middleton A. "Spike" Harris letters

Date: 1967-1975

Size: 0.01 linear feet (1 folder)

Source: Gift, Kaplan, Sidney, 10/02/84

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

Abstract: Middleton A. "Spike" Harris was an author, collector, dealer, and historian of African Americana and related research material. The Middleton A. "Spike" Harris letters consist principally of letters written by Harris to Sidney Kaplan, an English professor. The letters reflect Harris's interest in African American history and his activity as a collector. Some letters discuss the securing of memorabilia and archival items. Included in this collection is a proposal written by Joseph N. Cooper regarding organizing a museum of African American history and culture.

Preferred citation: [Item], Middleton A. "Spike" Harris letters, Sc MG 215, 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

Middleton A. "Spike" Harris was an author, collector, dealer, and historian of African Americana and related research material. He was a founder of the Negro History Associates (NHA), which was conceived in 1963 to educate the public and schoolchildren about the role of African Americans in American history. NHA fulfilled its purpose by producing films, erecting commemorative tablets, creating and maintaining traveling exhibits, publishing books, and related activities.

Harris graduated from Howard University with a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1931 and from Fordham University with a master's degree in social work in 1965. From 1931 to 1972 he served as a

parole officer for the New York State Executive Department, Division of Parole. Harris died in 1977.

Scope and Content Note

The Middleton A. "Spike" Harris letters consist principally of letters written by Harris to Sidney Kaplan, an English professor. The letters reflect Harris's interest in African American history and his activity as a collector. Some letters discuss the securing of memorabilia and archival items. Included in this collection is a proposal written by Joseph N. Cooper regarding organizing a museum of African American history and culture.

Key Terms

Occupations

African American historians -- New York (State) -- New York
African American scholars -- New York (State) -- New York

Subjects

African Americans -- Collectibles
Collectors and collecting -- United States

Names

Harris, M. A., 1908-1977
Kaplan, Sidney, 1913-