



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

Guide to the

**Antonia Cottrell Martin collection**

1983-2002

Sc MG 782

## Summary

**Creator:** Martin, Antonia Cottrell

**Title:** Antonia Cottrell Martin collection

**Date:** 1983-2002

**Size:** 3.0 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Gift of Antonia Cottrell Martin, September 2007.

**Revision History:** Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

**Abstract:** Antonia Cottrell Martin became one of the first African American flight attendants for Pan American World Airways in 1967. She helped found the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society and established the Foundation for African American Women. The Antonia Cottrell Martin papers consist primarily of records of the organizations with which Martin was associated.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Antonia Cottrell Martin collection, Sc MG 782, 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 Janice Quinter, May 2008.

**Separated Materials:**

Transferred to the Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division: books and periodicals.

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio and moving image materials. For more information, please contact the division at [schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org](mailto:schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org) or 212-491-2270.

## Creator History

Born in San Francisco in 1943, Antonia Cottrell Martin was the descendent of Black pioneers who initially went to California during the Gold Rush. Martin attended the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, where she studied textile design. In 1967, she became one of the first African American flight attendants for Pan American World Airways. As a descendent of a Black pioneer family, she became interested in tracing her family's roots, and joined the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS). In 1989, she helped found the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter of AAHGS and became its president. Inspired by the women in her family, Martin also established the Foundation for African American Women, and served as its president for a number of years. The mission of the Foundation was to find solutions to problems particular to African American women and to the larger African American community in general. Martin's social commitment and genealogical interests came together in her involvement with the Schomburg Corporation, a friends' group of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In 1989, she was invited to become a member of the Schomburg Corporation and served as the chairperson of the Family History and Genealogy Committee.

## Scope and Content Note

The Antonia Cottrell Martin papers consist primarily of records of the organizations with which Martin was associated: the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society, Foundation for African American Women, and the Schomburg Corporation. Files for the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS), including the Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter, encompass by-laws, minutes of meetings, information about genealogical fairs and resources, newsletters from other chapters, memorial programs for deceased members, correspondence, financial records, a chapter establishment handbook, and related documents, 1990-1994. There are also notebooks containing workshop-related and conference-related material (but not the papers presented by the speakers) for three conferences sponsored by the AAHGS, 1998-2002.

Files of the Foundation for African American Women include documents for an oral history film project entitled "African American Women: Their Lives, Their Survival, Their Future", consisting of taped interviews and conversations about various topics affecting African American women. The files in this collection include a list of questions, a tape log, Martin's narration, and signed waivers.

As a member of the Schomburg Corporation's Genealogy and Family History Committee, Martin's files consist of minutes, sources for genealogical information, and minutes and treasurer's reports for the larger Schomburg Corporation, 1989-1992. The collection also includes one file for the Brooklyn-based Society for African American Congressional Pioneers, 1993.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into four series: I. Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society; II. Foundation for African-American Women; III. Schomburg Corporation and Family History and Genealogy Committee; and IV. Other.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American women  
African American women -- Biography  
Genealogy  
Women genealogists

**Names**

Martin, Antonia Cottrell

Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (Washington, D.C.). Jean Sampson Scott Greater  
New York Chapter

Foundation for African American Women

Schomburg Corporation. Family History and Genealogy Committee

Society for African American Congressional Pioneers

## Container List

- Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) 1989-2002
  - b. 1 f. 1 1989-1990
  - b. 1 f. 2 New Jersey Society 1994
  - b. 1 f. 3 Conference programs 1994-1995
  - b. 1 f. 4 Chapter newsletters 1989-1995
  - b. 1 f. 5 Miscellaneous 1992-2000
  - Jean Sampson Scott Greater New York Chapter
    - b. 1 f. 6-11 1990-1992
    - b. 1 f. 12 1994
  - Conferences
    - b. 2 f. 1 "Unveiling the Past to Connect the Future: Census 2000" 1998
    - b. 2 f. 2 "The Circle Grows Wider: Embrace Another Link–Surname List" 2001
    - b. 2 f. 3 "Each Brick Tells A Story: Building Our House of Heritage" 2002
  - Foundation for African-American Women 1983-1995
    - b. 3 f. 1-2 1989-1992
    - b. 3 f. 3 Women Tell the Truth (organization) address lists 1991-1992
    - b. 3 f. 4 Ideas 1986-1992
    - b. 3 f. 5 1992-1993
    - b. 3 f. 6 Other women's organizations 1994-1995
    - b. 3 f. 7 Books and publishing 1983-1992
    - b. 3 f. 8 Events (invitations and flyers) 1992
    - b. 3 f. 9-11 Oral history film project 1995
  - Schomburg Corporation and Family History and Genealogy Committee 1989-1992
    - b. 3 f. 12 1989-1990
    - b. 3 f. 13 1990-1991
    - b. 3 f. 14 1990-1992
  - Other 1993
    - b. 3 f. 15 The Society for African American Congressional Pioneers 1993  
Includes background material and programs.
    - b. 3 f. 16 National African-American Memorial Project 1993
    - b. 3 f. 17-18 Miscellaneous