



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

Guide to the

Anna Jackson Smith papers

1929-1998

Sc MG 301

Summary

Creator: Smith, Anna Jackson, 1913-1998

Title: Anna Jackson Smith papers

Date: 1929-1998

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Anna Jackson Smith Estate, July 2011.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Born Anna Jackson in 1913, Anna Jackson Smith attended East Rutherford High School in New Jersey where she distinguished herself on the "Wonder-Girls" Basketball Team of the late 1920s and early 1930s. The Anna Jackson Smith papers focus on Smith's athletic achievements at East Rutherford High School.

Preferred citation: [Item], Anna Jackson Smith papers, Sc MG 301, 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, July 2011.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Born Anna Jackson in 1913, Anna Jackson Smith attended East Rutherford High School in New Jersey where she distinguished herself on the "Wonder-Girls" Basketball Team of the late 1920s and early 1930s as the team's center. The team amassed 104 consecutive victories over a seven-year span, a nationwide record, until 1933 when the Board of Education banned competitive sports for girls. Smith was the only African American on the teams, and she also participated in track, volleyball, and

baseball. As an all-around athlete, she swam, ice-skated, and rode horses. In later life, Smith won trophies for Doubles Tournaments in the American Tennis Association. For many years, she was employed by the United States Postal Service. She died in 1998.

Scope and Content Note

The Anna Jackson Smith papers focus on Smith's athletic achievements at East Rutherford High School in the late 1920s until her graduation in 1931. Included is Smith's 1931 yearbook, as well as her scrapbook containing news clippings detailing her accomplishments in sports, principally in basketball. The papers also contain her high school diploma; other certificates; documents discussing her induction into the Wildcat Athletic Hall of Fame, Borough of Carlstadt, New Jersey in 1984; and subsequent dinners honoring the girls' basketball teams from 1926-1931.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American athletes
African American basketball players
African American women athletes
African American women basketball players

Names

Smith, Anna Jackson, 1913-1998
Henry P. Becton Regional High School (East Rutherford, N.J.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Personal 1935-1998
 East Rutherford High School
- b. 1 f. 2 1930-1998
- b. 1 f. 3 Yearbook 1931
- b. 1 f. 4 News clippings ca. 1930-1977
- b. 1 f. 5 Scrapbook ca. 1929-1932