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Spotlight on Mississippi Archives

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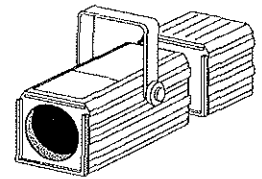
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JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY HENRY T. SAMPSON LIBRARY SPECIAL COLLECTION/ARCHIVES

The Special Collections/Archives Division is located on the 5th floor of the Henry T. Sampson Library. Hours are: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Materials are non-circulating. The following types of materials are maintained in our collection:

University records and publications; 6,500 books by and/or about African-Americans; manuscripts; 1,200 theses and/or dissertations; 100,000 photographs; scrapbooks; music scores; 6 oral history collections; sound and video recordings of University events; movie film; slides; microfilm; and, special collections donated by University Administrators, faculty/staff, and alumni. Some of our special collections include:

GIBBS/GREEN MEMORIAL - 1970-1996 (M-009) 10 cubic feet.

This collection covers documentation of the shooting incident on Jackson State College campus on May 15, 1970 whereby two young men, Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green, were killed by Mississippi law enforcement officers. In 1999, this collection was microfilmed by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. It includes the following:

- Part I: Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, Photographs, etc. of the original incident and its aftermath.
- Part II: Transcripts of the Mayor's Bi-Racial Committee, Jackson Police Radio Tapes, and Mississippi Highway Patrol Radio Station Logs.
- Part III: FBI Reports, FBI References, and Trial Transcripts.
- Part IV: 1996 Gibbs/Green Conference Proceedings (awaiting publication).

MISSISSIPPI BIG "8" CONFERENCE - 1935-1970 (M-074) 1.5 cubic feet.

The Mississippi Big Eight Conference was organized in 1934, under the name "Negro Prep Big Eight Athletic Conference." In 1952, the name was officially changed to the "Mississippi Big "8" Conference. The purpose of this conference was to promote the physical and mental welfare of the students in high schools. Activities which were part of the Conference included: Baseball, Basketball, Football, Tract, and Dramatics. Charter Members included: Brookhaven, Forest, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Laurel, Louisville, Magnolia's Pike County Training School, and Meridian. Associate Charter Members was Prentiss Institute. The collection contains the Conference constitution, correspondence, minutes, and financial reports.

MISSISSIPPI SUMMER PROJECT - 1962-1965 (M-076) 1 cubic foot.

This collection contains copies of selective documents surrounding 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer. It primarily focuses on reports by workers of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO). It documents their work with the Freedom Schools, Voter Registration, and Public Accommodations in Madison County.

OPERA/SOUTH - 1971-1990 (RG-6C) 18 cubic feet.

Administrative records, music scores, sound recordings, photographs, etc. of Opera/South which was chartered in 1971 and sponsored by traditionally Black colleges of Jackson State College, Tougaloo College, and Utica Junior College, which was originally formed under the name "Mississippi Inter-Collegiate Opera Guild." Opera/South was one of only three professional Black opera companies in America--the others being Opera/Ebony in Philadelphia, and Opera/North. Opera/South was based on the Jackson State University campus. Opera/South would bridge the gap between classroom and stage by allowing students work in a professional company, would showcase young American artists, and introduce opera to new audiences. The philosophy behind Opera/South was basic: good opera, intelligibly and beautifully sung in English, and with an exciting stage presentation. Opera/South presented over 20 operas, eight of which were world premiers by Black American composers such as, William Grant Still and Ulysses Kay.

Tougaloo College withdrew in 1975 and Utica Junior College withdrew in 1983 leaving funding to Jackson State University and various grants.

RICHARD H. BEADLE

A photographer who began his professional career in 1910 in a tent at Capitol and Roach Streets in Jackson, later moving his studio to a Farish street location where he continued to operate a thriving business for more than fifty-four years. This collection contains 57 photographs of his family, community leaders, and events in Jackson, Mississippi.

TRACY SUGARMAN - 1964-1992 (M-003)

An artist whose reportorial art has documented many facets of American corporate and institutional life. He covered the Civil Rights Movement in the South during the 1960s. This collection contains 95 photographs from the 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer covering orientation of students in Oxford; Churches & Freedom Schools in Ruleville; Demonstrations in Drew & Greenville; and voter registration in Indianola & Mound Bayou. Also included are 89 blown-up sketches from his book, "Stranger at the Gate," which was published in 1966 and was his personal record of the racial revolution he observed in Mississippi.

Do you have a person, project, or institution you would like to highlight in a future issue of the journal? Contact the editor at irmgard.wolfe@usm.edu