

Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library
Asa G. Hilliard, III Papers, the Archives Research Center
Atlanta, Georgia



The Archives Research Center

Immersed within the historic Atlanta University Center is one a rich collection of primary and secondary resources on African American and African Diaspora history and culture. The Archives Research Center is comprised of an extensive and unique collection of books, personal papers of individuals and families, and administrative records of organizations and institutions. The collections cover a broad range of subjects documenting the impact of race and racism on the lives of Black people and their endeavors for freedom, self-determination, equality, and empowerment. The subject focus expands to embrace documentation on the commonality of culture and interconnectedness of fate, experiences, and aspirations of people of African descent.

The mission of the Archives Research Center is to be a cultural asset and active participant in teaching and scholarship, providing collaborative leadership in the preservation, access, and collection development of archival resources. And its vision is to be a premier destination archives, connecting local community and the world to the rich historical and cultural resources at the Atlanta University Center. The core of the manuscript holdings in the Archives Research Center is built upon the Atlanta University Trevor Arnett Library's Negro Collection. Under the auspices of the Robert W. Woodruff Library, the archival and manuscript holdings continue to develop and expand. Thus, the collections document civil rights, race relations, education, literature, visual and performing arts, religion, politics, and social work.

The collections include: the Countee Cullen/Harold Jackman Memorial Collection, and papers of Hoyt Fuller and Wayman Carver that focus on black contributions to literature, music, performing and visual arts; personal papers of scholars C. Eric Lincoln and Walter Rodney, and religious leaders Harry V. Richardson and Edler G. Hawkins; records of civil rights organizations such as the Commission on Interracial Cooperation, Southern Regional Council, and Southern Conference for Human Welfare; files documenting African American education such as the Freedmen's Aid Society, Southern Education Foundation, and United Negro College Fund collections; records of women's organizations such as The Chautauqua Circle and The Moles; and academic professional associations such as the College Language Association, National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers, and Southern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel. There are also significant holdings about African Americans in Atlanta and documentation about the Atlanta University Center schools - Atlanta University and Clark College - now Clark Atlanta University, The Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse, Morris Brown, and Spelman Colleges.

Asa G. Hilliard, III Papers

Within in the Archives Research Center is the Asa G. Hilliard, III papers that spans the years between 1933 and 2007. The bulk of the collection dates from 1971 to 2007. The collection includes organizational files from organizations of which Hilliard was a member, subject files on topics of interest, records from his work at both San Francisco State University and Georgia State University, files related to his speaking engagements, photographs and videos, and manuscripts of articles, books, speeches and reports. The collection also contains some materials related to trials in which Hilliard served as an expert witness. Of note are the files related to the Larry P. v. Wilson Riles case from the late 1970s, photographs of the ceremony during which Hilliard became Nana Baffour and the slides from Hilliard's presentation "*Free Your Mind! Return to the Source.*"

This collection is divided into ten series. The series include: Correspondence; Memorabilia; Organizational files; Speaking engagements; Subject files; University records; Writings by Hilliard; Writings by others; News clippings; and Audio-visual materials. Hence, the digitized audio-visual materials from the Asa G. Hilliard, III Papers feature speeches, lectures, and presentations given by Dr. Hilliard and others between 1964 and 2000, throughout the United States. Topics include Afrocentricity, Egypt, Black history, education, and school psychology.

Biographical Note

In 1933, Asa G. Hilliard, III was born in Galveston, Texas to Asa G. Hilliard, II and Lois O. Williams. After studying education at the University of Denver, Hillard taught in the Denver public school system and joined the Army as a First Lieutenant. Hilliard returned to the University of Denver in the late 1950s, where he received his M.A. in counseling and Ed.D. in educational psychology.

After receiving his doctorate, Hilliard taught on staff at San Francisco State University. He served as a consultant to the Peace Corp in Liberia and as superintendent of schools in Monrovia, Liberia before accepting a position as department chair and Dean of Education at San Francisco State University. In 1980, Hilliard was appointed Fuller E. Calloway Professor of Urban Education at Georgia State University, where he taught in three departments: Special Education, the Department of Educational Psychology and the Department of Educational Policy Studies.

While teaching at both institutions, Hilliard also served as lead expert witness on several trials involving test validity and bias. Included in these are Larry P. v. Wilson Riles and Ayers v. Fordice which was heard by the Supreme Court. Throughout his career Hillard served as a consultant to school districts, universities, and government agencies on African content in curriculum, assessment, public policy and teacher/staff development. He was a founding member of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilization (ASCAC) and the National Black Child Development Institute, and he also spoke at the first Nile Valley Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Hilliard was enstooled as Development Chief of Mankranso in Ghana where he was given the title Nana Baffour Amankwatia, II. Hilliard also led study groups to Egypt and Ghana for over thirty years. These groups included university students as well as groups of interested adults.

During his last trip to Egypt, where he was to deliver a keynote address and lead a group of Reverend Jeremiah Wright's parishioners, Hilliard contracted malaria. Hilliard passed on August 13, 2007 due to complications of malaria while in Cairo, Egypt.

Hilliard was married to Patsy Jo Hilliard, former mayor of East Point, Georgia for 49 years. He and his wife raised four children: Asa G. Hilliard, IV, Robi Hilliard Herron, Patricia Hilliard-Nunn and Michael Hakim Hilliard.

Archives Research Center

archives@auctr.edu
(404) 978-2052

Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library

111 James P. Brawley Dr. SW, Atlanta, GA 30314
www.auctr.edu, (404) 978-2000