

North Carolina Collection

Negro Braille Magazine Records and Constance Merrick Watts Papers

Title:	Negro Braille Magazine Records and Constance Merrick Watts Papers
Inclusive Dates:	1919-2007 (bulk 1969-1985)
Extent of Materials:	5 hollinger boxes and 7 flat boxes
Location:	Duke Storage
Date of Accession:	2010, 2014
Donor:	Constance M. Watts through daughter Eileen Watts Welch
Relationship of donor or materials to the DCL/NCR	
Processor:	Amy McDonald
Description:	
Subject Headings:	Blind -- Books and reading.
	Blind, Periodicals for the.
	Braille periodicals.
	Blind -- Printing and writing systems.
	Durham County (N.C.). Library
	Durham (N.C.)--History.
	Negro braille magazine (Durham, N.C.)
	Negro braille magazine (Durham, N.C.)--History.
Abstract:	
Scope and Content:	The collection documents the editorial history of Negro Braille Magazine (now the Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind), primarily focusing on the 1970s and early 1980s. The core of the collection is a series of original paste-ups for magazine issues dating from December 1973 through December 1980. The collection contains many complete issues of the magazine from 1973 to 2007, whether in their Braille or non-Braille versions. A folder of funeral and celebratory event programs collected by Lyda Merrick's daughter, Constance Watts, contain funeral programs for Mrs. Merrick and magazine editor Margret Whisenton, as well as other notable members of the Durham community.
Related Materials:	Durham County Library Records, 1896-ongoing. North Carolina Collection, Durham County Library.
	Lyda Merrick (Negro Braille Magazine) Papers [unprocessed]. Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.
Restrictions:	The collection is open for research.

Biographical/Historical Note:	In 1950, Lyda Moore Merrick (daughter of Dr. Aaron McDuffie Moore and wife of Ed Merrick, son of John Merrick) was serving on the Board of Directors of the Stanford L. Warren Library and volunteering for the library's "Corner for the Blind." A childhood friend, John Carter Washington, lamented the lack of reading material for the blind, prompting her to create the Negro Braille Magazine, which published its first issue in June 1952.
	Culling articles on culture, scholarship, and current events from publications such as Jet and Ebony, the magazine published between two and four times per year during the period documented in this collection, and enjoyed an international readership. Lyda Merrick was succeeded as editor by Charlotte Hackett (June 1969-March 1975); Margaret Whisenton (1975-1980); and Dr. Ida Blue (became editor on October 22, 1980). The magazine, which still publishes twice a year, changed its name to the Merrick/Washington Magazine for the Blind in 1981; it is a project of the Durham Colored Library, Inc. For additional information, visit the magazine's website at http://merrickwashingtonmagazine.org/index.html .
	For a detailed account of the magazine's history through 1984, see Delores Martin Towles' publication, A Gift of Love: The Negro Braille Magazine Story .
Condition Notes:	The original magazine issue paste-ups located in box four are fragile. Photocopies of the paste-ups may be found in box one and should be consulted first.
Organization of Collection:	
Container List:	
Box 1	
Anniversaries	1972, 1977
Correspondence	1951, 1954, 1956, 1969-1978, 2000
Copy and Paste-Up, December 1973 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, June 1974 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, September 1974 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, December 1974 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, June 1975 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, September 1975 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, December 1975 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, March 1976 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, June 1976 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, September 1976 Issue (photocopies)	

Copy and Paste-Up, December 1976 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, September 1977 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, March 1978 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, September 1978 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, December 1978 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, June 1980 Issue (photocopies)	
Copy and Paste-Up, December 1980 Issue (photocopies)	
Paste-Up, Unkown issues (photocopies)	1976-1977
Box 2	
Advocacy Materials	1973, 1977, undated
Copy for March 1975 Issue	
Copy, Miscellaneous	1971-1975 and undated
Donors	1975, 1982-1988, 1998-2003
Durham Colored Library, Inc., History	undated
Financial Papers (tax/wage statements and printing invoices)	1969-1975, 1992-1995, 2002, 2004
Foundation for Better Health	1984-1985
Includes photo of Constance M. Watts.	
Funding: Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation	1979-1982
Fundraising	1979, 1998-2001, and undated
Funeral, Memorial, and Celebratory Programs	1919-2013
Although these programs are contained in a single folder, they have been inventoried individually to facilitate discovery.	
Dr. James H. Brewer	March 12, 1974

Logan D. Delaney, Sr. Memorial Card	October 25, 1994
Isadora Spaulding Brennon	November 22, 1994
Maria Burke Creed	August 6, 1997
Dr. William Bruce, Jr.	January 3, 2001
Martha Merrick Donnell	May 24, 1966
Martha Vivian Spaulding Dooms	October 4, 1992
Dr. Helen Gray Edmonds	May 16-17, 1995
Pearl Louise Ligon George	November 9, 1995
J. J. "Babe" Henderson, Sr.	March 1, 1998
Nell Hunter	September 12, 1992
Margaret Lillian Spaulding Kennedy	January 28, 1986
William Jesse Kennedy, Jr.	July 11, 1985
Maxie S. Lawless	September 11, 1993
Edward Richard Merrick	February 11, 1967
Lyda Moore Merrick	February 17, 1987
Includes photo of and receipt for grave marker.	
Virginia McDougald O'Daniel	November 23, 1983
William Gaston Pearson, II	October 20, 1985
Dr. Annette Lewis Phinazee Appreciation Day Luncheon	July 24, 1983
Photocopy of obituary for Dr. Annette Lewis Phinazee	undated
Emma Elizabeth Lee Randolph	November 18, 1991
Willa Moore Robinson	November 8, 1998
James Joseph Sansom, Jr.	July 20, 1989
Includes sympathy cards and letters.	
"An Evening with Hazel" (Hazel Bruce Scott)	March 9, 1978
Margaret Spaulding Shearin	January 16, 1989

Charles Clinton Spaulding, Jr.	September 13, 1987
Fannie Spaulding	July 20, 1919
Mamie Mitchell Spaulding	August 5, 1994
Marion D. Spaulding	October 9, 1992
Minnie Willette Pearson Turner Spaulding	February 8, 1985
Ruth Whitted Spaulding	April 2, 1988
Otelia J. Spaulding Stewart	June 16, 1991
John Sylvester "Shag" Stewart	May 17, 1995
Salute to John Sylvester "Shag" Stewart	January 12, 1974
Charlotte Kennedy Sloan	February 9, 1995
Dr. Henry Louis Taylor, Sr.	June 30, 1987
Lewis G. Watts	September 6, 1966
John Hervey Wheeler	July 8, 1978
Margaret H. Wheeler	January 2, 1976
Margret Yvonne Wilson Whisenton	October 31, 1998
Geographic List of Subscribers; Negro Braille Holdings at S. L. Warren Library	1975
"A Gift of Love" Manuscript	ca. 1983-1985
Includes manuscript by Delores Martin Towles, appendix, a chronology of Negro Braille Magazine , amd correspondence from Towles	
"A Gift of Love" Publication Paperwork	1981 and undated
Library Corner for the Blind, Stanford L. Warren Public Library	1954-1955
Contains programs for the Fifth and Sixth Anniversary Celebrations for the Library Corner for the Blind	
Magazine Reader Survey	undated

Lyda Merrick, Biographical Information and Notebook	1969, 1973, 1979, and undated
Minutes (incomplete)	1969-1980, 1996-2005
Standford L. Warren Library Reopening	2006
Treasurer's Reports and Budgets	1969-1979, 1994-2002
Constance Watts, Biographical Information, includes address and date books	1999
Box 3	
Negro Braille Magazine , June 1980 issue	
Negro Braille Magazine , December 1980 issue	
Box 4	
Original Paste-Up, December 1973 issue	
Original Paste-Up, June 1974 issue	
Original Paste-Up, September 1974 issue	
Original Paste-Up, December 1974 issue	
Original Paste-Up, June 1975 issue	
Original Paste-Up, September 1975 issue	
Original Paste-Up, December 1975 issue	
Original Paste-Up, March 1976 issue	
Original Paste-Up, June 1976 issue	
Original Paste-Up, September 1976 issue	
Box 5	
Original Paste-Up, December 1976 issue	
Original Paste-Up, September 1977 issue	
Original Paste-Up, March 1978 issue	
Original Paste-Up, September 1978 issue	

Original Paste-Up, December 1978 issue	
Original Paste-Up, June 1980 issue	
Original Paste-Up, December 1980 issue	
Original Paste-Up, Unknown issues, 1976- 1977	
Box 6	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , June 2000 issue (non- Braille version)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, December 2000 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , June 2001 issue (non- Braille version)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , December 2001 issue (non-Braille version)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , June 2002 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, December 2002 issue (50th Anniversary)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , June 2003 issue (non- Braille version)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, June 2004 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, December 2004 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, June 2005 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , December 2005 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, December 2006 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , Summer 2007 issue (non-Braille version)	

Magazine for the Blind , Winter 2014 issue (non- Braille version)	
Box 7	
Negro Braille Magazine , March 1973 issue (20th Anniversary)	
Negro Braille Magazine , June 1975 issue	
Negro Braille Magazine , December 1976 issue	
Negro Braille Magazine , March 1977 issue	
Box 8	
Negro Braille Magazine , June 1978 issue	
Negro Braille Magazine , June 1985 issue	
Negro Braille Magazine , December 1991 issue	
Negro Braille Magazine , June 1998 issue	
Box 9	
Negro Braille Magazine, June 1999 issue	
Negro Braille Magazine , December 1999 issue	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, June 2000 issue (Braille version)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind , June 2001 issue (Braille version)	
Box 10	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, December 2001 issue (Braille version)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, June 2003 issue (Braille version)	
Box 11	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, December 2003 issue (Braille version)	
Merrick-Washington Magazine for the Blind, Summer 2007 issue	

(Braille version)	
Box 12	
Account Book, 1969-1995	Includes donor lists, receipts, and financial reports
Account Book, 1994-2008	Includes donor lists, receipts, and financial reports
Scrapbook, 1977	Collections of letters that commemorate Lyda Moore Merrick on the 25th anniversary of the magazine for her work with blind African American community. Includes letters from President Jimmy Carter and other members of the politics, both national and local.
Loose scrapbook materials, 1969, 1974, 1977-1978	
Leonard School of Medicine history	
Charles Clinton Spaulding Scholarship Day, 1967	
Eileen Watts Welch oral history, 2012	

Get help with your account

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