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#61 King, Kermit C. (1909-), Collection, 1925-1975
2 linear feet

INTRODUCTION

The collection consists of papers and materials related to the life and career of Kermit King. The collection consists of documents, photographs, correspondence, awards, personal jewelry, and miscellaneous material.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Kermit C. King Collection was donated to Pittsburg State University and the Special Collections Department of the Leonard H. Axe Library on May 5, 2005 (Accession 05-16) by Ms. Jennifer Collier.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Kermit King was born on July 5, 1909 in New York City, New York. King attended DeWitt Clinton High School, and then attended the College of the City of New York in 1937 before transferring to Kansas State Teachers College in 1937. King received his B.S. degree in education in 1937 from Kansas Teachers College, and then earned his M.S. degree in educational supervision in 1938. After earning these degrees, King studied at the University of California at Los Angeles, and earned his doctorate degree in educational administration in 1947. King also received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Liberia in 1956.

While attending the College of the City of New York and Kansas Teachers College, King participated in track and field. King competed in the running broad jump. He gained All-American, AAU, and NCAA Track and Field Honors during his time on the Track and Field team from Kansas Teachers College. King qualified for the AAU team which toured in Japan in 1937.

King worked as a Professor of Education at West Virginia State College from 1947-1952 and Tennessee A&I University from 1952-1954. He served as the President of the University of Liberia from 1954-1959. King also worked as the Director of Teacher Training at Tennessee A&I University from 1959-1961. From 1961 to 1971, Dr. King worked as Higher Education Development Advisor and Officer in East Africa, Southeast Asia, Central America, and South America. King also worked as the Director of the Office of International Education at East Carolina. Finally, King was the Chief of the University Relations and Complementary Training Branch for the US Department of State.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Kermit C. King Collection consists of documents, photographs, publications, newspaper articles, artifacts, medals, and personal jewelry. This material pertains to Dr. King's athletic achievements and his work experience. The Kermit C. King Collection is arranged into nine series: **Biographical, Writings and Publications, Track and Field, University of Liberia, Brazil, East Carolina University, Certificates and Diplomas, Awards and Personal Jewelry, and Miscellaneous.**

The **Biographical Series** includes resumes, a portrait of King, correspondence, performance evaluation reports, and miscellaneous documents pertaining to the employment of Dr. King. The resumes show work chronology up to 1975. The correspondence included in this series consists of letters of recommendation, personal correspondence, correspondence referring to Dr. King,

and business correspondence. The correspondence is arranged chronologically from 1942-1976. The performance evaluation reports are from the Department of State Agency for International Development and are arranged chronologically from 1967-1972. The miscellaneous documents contain biographical data, reports of meetings, a magazine article, an application for service credit, and photographs of biographical data.

The **Writings and Publications Series** includes speeches, essays, and publications of Kermit King. The dissertation of Dr. King is included in this series. Its title is *The Historical Development of Extension of U.C.L.A.* King submitted the dissertation in June, 1947. There are two copies of King's dissertation included in the series. The majority of essays in this series are unpublished. The speeches are made up primarily of Dr. King addressing students and faculty of various schools. Other speeches include those addressed to those attending formal business meetings. One speech is addressed to a board of trustees at Dr. King's University of Liberia "send-off party." Another speech given at the University of Liberia was an introductory speech of Kwame Nkrumah.

The **Track and Field Series** includes photographs and excerpts from newspapers. The photographs included in this series show the AAU team that he was a part of, teammates, and individual photographs. The excerpts from newspapers include a copy of *The Afro-American* from August 7, 1937. This article discusses the ability of King to clinch a tour of Japan at a meet in Milwaukee. There is also a clipping from a Japanese newspaper which shows King and his AAU teammates. Also included in this series are a souvenir plate from his tour of Japan, King's letterman's "K," and King's AAU emblem and sweater.

The **University of Liberia Series** includes photographs, correspondence, newspaper articles, journals from Liberia, annuals from the University of Liberia, and a guest book kept by King. The photographs included show Richard Nixon's visit to the University. The majority of the photographs show Richard Nixon and Kermit King. Other photographs included show King receiving the "Light in Darkness" medal from the Board of Trustees at the University of Liberia. The medal shown in these photographs is included in the Medals and Personal Jewelry Series. The correspondence included in this series contains personal correspondence, correspondence referring to King, and a letter from Richard Nixon. The newspaper articles included in this series discuss Nixon's visit to Liberia and the Doctor of Law degree received by King from the University of Liberia. The journals included in this series give information about Liberia while King was involved with the University. The majority of journals come from *Liberia Today*, and include issues from 1953-1957. Other journals included give an overview of Liberia. These journals range from 1954-1959.

The **Brazil Series** includes correspondence. The correspondence included contains letters written to King and letters discussing the quality of his work while in Brazil. Some of the correspondence is written in Spanish. The correspondence has been arranged chronologically from 1964-1971.

The **East Carolina University Series** includes correspondence, a faculty identification card, newspaper articles, records from meetings and conventions, and excerpts from the undergraduate catalogue of East Carolina University. The correspondence in this series is mostly personal correspondence. Correspondence referring to Dr. King has also been included. The correspondence has been arranged chronologically from 1972-1973. The newspaper articles

included in this series are from *The Daily Reflector* on January 28, 1973 and the *Fountainhead* on January 23, 1972.

The **Certificates and Diplomas Series** includes diplomas received from Kansas State Teachers College, the University of California at Los Angeles, and the University of Liberia. The certificates included are certificates of vocational training, a certificate of completion of work, and certificates of membership. There are also photographs of King's diploma from the University of California at Los Angeles. The program for the ceremony is also included for the proceedings at the University of California.

The **Awards and Personal Jewelry Series** includes the medals won for events at track and field meets, plaques given to King for services while employed, and personal jewelry collected by King.

The **Miscellaneous Series** includes essays, speeches, documents pertaining to King's work experience, personal notes taken, studies of universities, programs, and a newspaper article. The essays included in this series include essays collected by King, incomplete essays, and unidentified essays. The speeches included have been collected by King, and others are unidentified. The essays and speeches mainly discuss the importance of receiving an education. The documents pertaining to King's work experience are mainly evaluations of universities and programs.

FOLDER LIST

Biographical Series

- f. 1 Resumes
- f. 2 Correspondence: 1942-1971
- f. 3 Correspondence: 1971-1976
- f. 4 Performance Evaluation Reports: 1967-1972
- f. 5 Photograph, Biographical Data, Application for Service Data

Writings and Publications Series

- f. 6-7 Dissertation
- f. 8 "Cooperative Aspects of Student Teacher Programs"
- f. 9 *Tentative Policies and Procedures for Student Teaching*, 1961
- f. 10 "African Educational Problems and Their Implications for American Education"
- f. 11 "Be On Time"
- f. 12 "The University Extension Movement at the University of California," and "Needed- An H Bomb for Education"
- f. 13 "Will the Church Survive?" and "Planning for Testing and Utilizing Test Results"
- f. 14 Untitled Essays
- f. 15 Speeches given to Alpha Delta Sigma Honorary Scholastic Society of West
- f. 16 Speeches given at West Virginia State College
- f. 17 Speech given at New Ulm High School
- f. 18 Speeches given at business meetings, a party, and the University of Liberia

Track and Field Series

- f. 19 Photographs, Newspaper Excerpts, and Emblems

University of Liberia Series

- f. 20-23 Photographs- Nixon Visit
f. 24-25 Photographs- Light in Darkness
f. 26 Correspondence
f. 27 Newspaper Articles
f. 28 Guest Book
f. 29 Annual- 1955
f. 30 Annual- 1957
f. 31 *Liberia Today*, Complete Volume of 1955
f. 32 *Liberia Today*, 1953-1954
f. 33 *Liberia Today*, 1955 and 1957
f. 34 The Republic of Liberia Diplomatic Press Survey, December, 1953
f. 35 *The National Unification Program of Liberia*, June 1954; Liberian Information Service *The Republic of Liberia*

Brazil Series

- f. 36 Correspondence, 1964-1966
f. 37 Correspondence, 1968-1971

East Carolina University Series

- f. 38 Correspondence, 1972
f. 39 Correspondence, 1973
f. 40 Records from Meetings and Conventions, Faculty Identification Card, and Newspaper Articles
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Certificates and Diplomas Series

- f. 42 Bachelor's Degree Diploma from Kansas State Teachers College
f. 43 Master's Degree Diploma from Kansas State Teachers College
f. 44 Degrees and Certificates from the University of California, the University of Liberia, Vocational Training, and Certificates of Membership

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- f. 45 Plaque Given to King by the Agency for International Development
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Miscellaneous Series

- f. 47-50 Incomplete Essays
f. 51 Unidentified Essays Dealing with Higher Education
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