

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Eleanor Traylor

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Traylor, Eleanor W.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor,
Dates:	June 21, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:48:40).
Abstract:	Professor Eleanor Traylor (1933 -) was a graduate professor of English at Howard University, and chair of the Howard University Department of English from 1993 to 2009. Traylor was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 21, 2018, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_133
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Professor Eleanor Traylor was born on December 12, 1933 in Thomasville, Georgia to Esther and Philip Williams. She graduated with her B.A. degree in English from Spelman College in 1955, and went on to receive her M.A. degree in English from Atlanta University in 1956. She also received a Merrill Scholarship to study at the University of Stuttgart in German in 1957. She later earned her Ph.D. degree in English from Catholic University of America in 1976.

From 1959 to 1965, Traylor taught English courses at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She went on to become a professor of English at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland, where she taught from 1965 to 1990. While there, Traylor was a collaborating author alongside Toni Morrison on the textbook, *College Reading Skills*. She also served as the English department chair for the graduate school of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Traylor taught as a guest lecturer at Georgetown University in 1966; as a visiting professor at the African Studies and Research Center of Cornell University in 1979; and as an adjunct professor of drama at Howard University in 1968, where she produced a dramatic reading of Owen Dodson's *The Dream Awake*. In 1973, Traylor received a research fellowship to study African drama in Ghana and Nigeria. In 1990, she was hired as a graduate professor of English at Howard University. She also chaired the humanities division until 1993 when she was named chair of the Department of English at Howard University. As chair, Traylor established the annual Heart's Day Conference which honored African Americans in literature. During her tenure at Howard University, Traylor co-wrote several textbooks, worked as a consultant on the film *Amistad* and directed the production of *Stepping Out of the Negro Caravan* in collaboration with George Faison, Debbie Allen and other Howard University alumni.

Traylor served as director of evaluation procedures at the Duke Ellington School of the Arts as well as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts. She also served on the board of the D.C. Black Repertory Theater Company. She was also an evaluator for the Afro-American Museums

Association. In addition to working as a script writer and consultant for the Smithsonian Institution, Traylor also assisted the National Black Arts Festival as a literature consultant.

Traylor received several awards and honors for her work, including the Hazel Joan Bryant Award in 1987 as well as the Marcus Garvey Award, the Catholic University Alumni Achievement Award in literary criticism, and the Larry Neal-Georgia Douglas Johnson Award for literature and community service in 1989. In 1993, Traylor was honored with the African Heritage Studies Association Community Service Award and the Amoco Foundation's Excellence in Teaching Award. In addition to receiving a Doctor of Humane Letters from Spelman College in 2002, Traylor was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Howard University in 2017.

Eleanor Traylor was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 23, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Eleanor Traylor was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 21, 2018, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Professor Eleanor Traylor (1933 -) was a graduate professor of English at Howard University, and chair of the Howard University Department of English from 1993 to 2009.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Traylor, Eleanor W.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Traylor, Eleanor W.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

African American Studies Scholar

HistoryMakers® Category:

EducationMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, June 21, 2018. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_001, TRT: 1:30:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_002, TRT: 2:26:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_003, TRT: 3:31:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_004, TRT: 4:31:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_005, TRT: 5:29:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_006, TRT: 6:30:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_007, TRT: 7:30:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eleanor Traylor, Section A2018_133_001_008, TRT: 8:19:21 ?