

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with John Rogers, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rogers, John W., Jr., 1958-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr.,
Dates:	July 17, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:30:00).
Abstract:	Investment chief executive John Rogers, Jr. (1958 -) is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Ariel Investments. Rogers was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 17, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A1993_003
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Investment chief executive John W. Rogers, Jr. was born on March 31, 1958 in Chicago, Illinois to Jewel Lafontant Mankarious and Judge John Rogers, Sr. At an early age, he showed great aptitude in school as well as on the basketball court, and, because of his father, developed an interest in the stock market. Rogers graduated from the University of Chicago Laboratory School in 1976. He went on to Princeton University, where he served as captain of the varsity basketball team and graduated in 1980 with his A.B. degree in economics.

Upon graduation, Rogers became a stockbroker for William Blair & Company, LLC. In 1983, he left William Blair & Company and founded Ariel Investments (then Ariel Capital Management Corporation), an investment management company, where he became chairman and chief executive officer.

Rogers has served on the board of directors of Aon Corporation, Bank One Corporation, Burrell Communications Group, GATX Corporation, Exelon Corporation and McDonald's Corporation. He also has been active within the community, serving as chairman of the Chicago Urban League, board member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the National Association of Basketball Coaches Foundations, the Investment Company Institute and the University of Chicago. He served as a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a director of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. In addition, Rogers served a six-year term as the first African American chairman of the Chicago Park District, was co-chair for President Barack Obama's Presidential Inaugural Committee 2009, and chaired the President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans.

In 1994, *Time* magazine voted Rogers one of the "Fifty For the Future" based upon the unprecedented success of Ariel Investments. In 2008, he was awarded Princeton University's highest honor, the Woodrow Wilson Award. In 2013, he was featured alongside Warren Buffett, Sir John Templeton and Benjamin Graham in the book: *The World's 99 Greatest Investors* by Magnus Angenfelt. In 2010, his life was honored by The HistoryMakers as part of the PBS-TV interview and taping of *A Night With John Rogers*.

John Rogers, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 17, 2002.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with John Rogers, Jr. was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 17, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Investment chief executive John Rogers, Jr. (1958 -) is the founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Ariel Investments.

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:

Rogers, John W., Jr., 1958-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Rogers, John W., Jr., 1958---Interviews

African American investment advisors--Interviews.

Investment bankers--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Ariel Capital Management

Occupations:

Investment Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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 John Rogers, Jr., July 17, 2002. 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 John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_001_001, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

John Rogers, Jr. remembers parents and grandparents and shares details about their lives and backgrounds. He then talks about the community where he grew up in Chicago and his earliest memories there. He gives details about his home life and the examples of success that his parent's set for him. Rogers recalls friends and classmates during his formative years in school as well as his aspirations to become a basketball coach. Rogers remembers his first job as a vendor at Comiskey Park.

Chicago (Ill.)--Social life and customs.

Family histories.

African American grandparents--Illinois--Chicago.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

Childhood and youth--Chicago--Illinois.

African Americans--Education--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_001_002, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

John Rogers, Jr. talks about changes he had to mentally go through in order to succeed in high school and then discusses his interests and successes there. He explains the decision-making process he went through while looking at various colleges to attend. Rogers talks about how playing basketball at the highest level possible was very important to him and then describes Princeton University Coach Pete Carril's style of basketball. Rogers details about lessons he learned from Carril, lessons that transcended the court and into his life. He then touches on the theme of teamwork in sports and how, if taught properly, can be an invaluable trait to have. John Rogers, Jr. details the coaching career of Pete Carril and then mentions some of his college teammates.

Basketball.

Princeton University.

Basketball--Coaching.

Management & leadership skills.

African American college athletes--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_001_003, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

John Rogers, Jr. details his transition from college into the stock market and how he got his first job with William Blair. Being a young and innovative broker, he relied on non-traditional ways of sourcing clients and talks about his strategies. Rogers recalls the impetuous behind attending graduate school. Taking cues from other successful brokers, Rogers talks about his reasoning for branching out and starting his own capital management company. Using a "patient investor" model, Ariel Capital Management Company makes great strides during its' first three years in business. Rogers recalls team members that helped the company succeed in its early years.

African American investment advisors--Interviews.

Academic achievement--United States.

Success in business.

Stockbrokers--Interviews.

Ariel Capital Management.

Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_001_004, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

John Rogers, Jr. narrates photographs that document his life. Next, Rogers recalls advice he received from various people while attempting to gain new accounts for Ariel Capital Management Company. He talks about Ariel's growth

over the years and about people who assisted him along the way either by funding or serving on his board.

Photographs.

Business--Illinois--Chicago.

African American business enterprises.

Ariel Capital Management.

Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_001_005, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

John Rogers, Jr. explains how his parents encouraged and aided him in his climb up the business ladder. He then discusses how Ariel Capital Management Company played their cards during the country's hard financial times and were still able to succeed. He then talks about different personnel changes at Ariel during the 1980s and how the company began to see more competition. Rogers then recalls how his business and civic duties both came into popularity during the same time. John Rogers, Jr. discusses his time as president of the Chicago Park District Board.

Career development--Achievements.

Success in business.

Investment advisors--Interviews.

African American businesspeople--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

Ariel Capital Management.

Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_001_006, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

John Rogers, Jr. talks about the six years he spent as chairman of the Chicago Park District. He discusses the highs and lows of the job and lessons he learned through his experiences there. He then describes how the Ariel Community Academy started and of those involved in the management of the school. He then talks about Ariel's move to partner with the Calvert Group, their working relationship and then how the two companies parted ways. Next, Rogers goes into detail about Ariel's slow and steady growth and how bull and bear markets affected the company's success. John Rogers, Jr. considers his future plans and then discusses the rise of black's involvement in the stock market.

Investment advisors--Interviews.

Business--Illinois--Chicago.

Business planning--United States.

Career development--Achievements.

Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_001_007, TRT: 0:30:00 ?

John Rogers, Jr. talks about his switch from the Republican to Democratic party. He shares his hopes and concerns for the black community and then considers his legacy and discusses family values.

Democratic Party (U.S.).

Political organizations.

African American families--Illinois--Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with John Rogers, Jr., Section A1993_003_JOHN_ROGERS_JR_06_MED_002, TRT: 0:23:00 ?

This tape contains footage of interviews with Ed Gardner, John Rogers, and Willie Barrow. It is roll 14 of the Tanqueray project.