

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard Long

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Long, Richard A., 1927-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richard Long,
Dates:	March 15, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:27:01).
Abstract:	Author Richard Long (1927 - 2013) was a renowned scholar of language and the arts who has taught at several universities. Long was the author of Black Americana, and his work has been included in more than twenty anthologies and encyclopedias of African American culture. Long was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 15, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_021
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Renowned scholar of language and the arts, Richard Long, was born on Feb 9, 1927, in Philadelphia, where he spent his childhood. Long attended Temple University, where he received his B.A. in 1947 and his M.A. in 1948. He conducted post-graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania and abroad, at Oxford, England and Paris, France. From 1957-1958, he studied at the University of Paris on a Fulbright Scholarship. He went on to earn his Ph.D. from the University of Poitiers in 1965.

Long began his career in academia teaching English at West Virginia State College and Morgan State College. While completing his doctoral work, he also acted as a lecturer at the University of Poitiers. Upon returning to the U.S., he taught English and French for Hampton Institute and directed its College Museum. From 1969-1971, he lectured in Afro-American Studies at Harvard University. The following year, he acted as a visiting professor of linguistics for the University of North Carolina. Subsequently, he taught English and Afro-American Studies at Atlanta University from 1968-1987. Since 1973, he has been a professor at Emory University's Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts. In addition, he has acted as a visiting lecturer to universities in West, Central and South Africa and India.

Long serves on the editorial boards of several publications, including the *Langston Hughes Bulletin*, *Phylon* and the *Zora Neale Hurston Bulletin*. He served as president for the College Language Association and the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics. He currently serves as Commissioner for the Smithsonian Museum's National Museum of African Art and sits on the boards of the High Museum of Art and the Society of Dance History Scholars. He founded the Triennial Symposium on African Art, Atlanta University's Annual Conference at the Center for African and African American Studies and the New World Festivals of the African Diaspora. He was a U.S. Committee Member at the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture in Lagos, Nigeria from 1971-1977 and has acted as a consultant for both the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Long's published works include *Black Americana* (1985) *Black Writers and the American Civil War* (1989) *The Black Tradition in American Dance* (1989) and *African Americans: A Portrait* (1993). His work has also been included in over twenty anthologies and encyclopedias of African American culture.

Richard Long passed away on January 4, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Richard Long was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 15, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Author Richard Long (1927 - 2013) was a renowned scholar of language and the arts who has taught at several universities. Long was the author of *Black Americana*, and his work has been included in more than twenty anthologies and encyclopedias of African American culture.

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:

Long, Richard A., 1927-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Author

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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 Richard Long, March 15, 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 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following

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 Richard Long, Section
A2002_021_001_001, TRT: 0:30:52 2002/03/15

Former university professor and scholar, Richard Long, details his childhood in Philadelphia and summers in his family home of Columbia, South Carolina. Raised primarily by his oldest sister after his mother's death when he was just 6, he describes life in his segregated neighborhood in the 1930s and 1940s, as well as his family life. Long also describes his high school education, recalling his superior teachers and discussing his favorite subjects and extracurricular activities.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Long, Section
A2002_021_001_002, TRT: 0:29:34 2002/03/15

Professor and scholar Richard Long describes his long process of higher education, which began at Temple University, where he earned a bachelor's and master's degrees. A teen during World War II, Long joined the Army in order to pay for college. Only fifteen years old, he became part of a specialized program, which ended just around the time the war ended. Severe allergies and the GI Bill allowed him to leave the Army and complete his studies at Temple. Long then describes his doctoral studies, which began at the University of Pennsylvania. After earning a Fulbright scholarship, Long traveled overseas to Oxford University and the University of Paris to study medieval writings. Long earned his doctorate at

the University of Poitiers. Long also describes teaching at Morgan State University between his degrees, and explains how he tried to integrate all humanities studies into his teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Long, Section
A2002_021_001_003, TRT: 0:29:51 2002/03/15

Professor and scholar Richard Long details his academic and artistic growth in the late 1960s as he moved from Morgan State University to Hampton University then Atlanta University. He explains that he moved to Atlanta University so he could teach more advanced students. He recalls rising movements like "Negritude" and the arts movement that accompanied them. Long also recalls figures like Alioune Diop, Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, and W.E.B. DuBois and discusses their roles in literary and artistic movements. Long also discusses his involvement as a collector and curator of African art.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Long, Section
A2002_021_001_004, TRT: 0:27:38 2002/03/15

Former Atlanta University professor, Richard Long, details his experiences at Morgan State College and Atlanta University. He discusses his involvement in organizing the Conference on African and African American studies at Atlanta University. Long then discusses his involvement in the arts and plays that he has funded and produced. After naming some of his published works, Long describes his time at Emory University. Finally, he shares his opinions on Afrocentrism in academia.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Long, Section
A2002_021_001_005, TRT: 0:29:32 2002/03/15

Professor and scholar Richard Long engages in a lengthy discussion about the African diaspora and its study in academia. Long also comments on the self image of African Americans. He then moves into a discussion about his favorite African American writers, focusing on Ralph Ellison and Toni Morrison. Long also discusses his friendships with James Baldwin, Romare Bearden, and Katherine Dunham. Finally, Long names his favorite composers, choreographers, and performing artists.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Long, Section
A2002_021_001_006, TRT: 0:30:00 2002/03/15

Professor and scholar Richard Long shares his opinions on many contemporary subjects, including the state of intellectual development in the black community, the lack of commitment to academic studies, slavery reparations, historically black colleges and universities, and black art. Long also shares his favorite musicians, and considers his legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Long, Section
A2002_021_001_007, TRT: 0:29:34 2002/03/15