

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Asa Hilliard, III

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hilliard, Asa G.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III,
Dates:	June 20, 2005 and May 6, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003 and 2005
Physical Description:	10 Betacame SP videocassettes (4:50:53).
Abstract:	Educational psychology professor Asa Hilliard, III (1933 - 2007) was the Fuller E. Calloway Professor of Educational Psychology at Georgia State University and author of The Maroon Within Us. Hilliard was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 20, 2005 and May 6, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_098
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

A professor of educational psychology, Asa Hilliard, III, was born in Galveston, Texas, on August 22, 1933. After completing high school, Hilliard attended the University of Denver, earning his B.A. degree in 1955; his M.A. degree in counseling in 1961; and his Ed.D. degree in educational psychology in 1963.

After earning his bachelor's in psychology, Hilliard began teaching in the Denver Public School system, where he remained until 1960; that year, he began as a teaching fellow at the University of Denver, where he remained until he earned his

Ph.D. Joining the faculty at San Francisco State University in 1963, Hilliard spent the next eighteen years there. While at San Francisco State, Hilliard first became department chairman, then went on to spend his final eight years as dean of education. Hilliard also served as a consultant to the Peace Corps and as superintendent of schools in Monrovia, Liberia, for two years. Departing from San Francisco State, Hilliard became a professor at Georgia State University; he served as the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Urban Education, serving in both the Department of Educational Policy Studies and the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education.

Hilliard was a founding member of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations and served as vice president. He served as an expert witness in court testimony on several federal cases regarding test validity and bias, and was the co-developer of an educational television series, *Free Your Mind, Return to the Source: African Origins*. Hilliard wrote hundreds of articles on a wide variety of topics, including ancient African history, teaching strategies, and public policy. Hilliard was the recipient of the Outstanding Scholarship Award from the Association of Black Psychologists; a Knight Commander of the Human Order of the African Redemption; and the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Association of Teachers of Education.

Hilliard and his wife, Patsy Jo, raised four children.

Asa Hilliard, III, passed away on Sunday, August 12, 2007, at the age of seventy-three.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Asa Hilliard, III was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 20, 2005 and May 6, 2003, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 10 Betacame SP videocassettes. Educational psychology professor Asa Hilliard, III (1933 - 2007) was the Fuller E. Calloway Professor of Educational Psychology at Georgia State University and author of *The Maroon Within Us*.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

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

Restrictions on Use

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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:

Hilliard, Asa G.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hilliard, Asa G. --Interviews

African American educators--Interviews

African American scholars--Interviews

African American authors--Interviews

Educational psychology

African American families

African Americans--Genealogy

Civil rights movement

Community activists

Denver (Colo.)

African American youth

African American young men

University of Denver

San Francisco State University

Psychology

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Georgia State University

Occupations:

Educational Psychology Professor

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 Asa Hilliard, III, June 20, 2005 and May 6, 2003. 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 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 Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_001_001, TRT: 0:28:30 2003/05/06

Professor of educational psychology Asa Hilliard, III, discusses his family's history, going into detail about his grandfather's and parent's lives. Hilliard tells stories about their pasts to introduce their personalities. Asa Hilliard, III, explains his tight-knit family structure and describes how they've taken care of relatives in times of need.

African American educators--Interviews.

African American scholars--Interviews.

African American authors--Interviews.

Educational psychology.

African American families.

African Americans--Genealogy.

Civil rights movements.

Community activists.

Denver (Colo.).

African American youth.

African American young men.

University of Denver.

San Francisco State University.

Psychology.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_001_002, TRT: 0:39:40 2003/05/06

Professor of educational psychology Asa Hilliard, III, talks about various family members' involvement in civil activism as well as his own link to the Civil Rights Movement. Hilliard remembers his earliest childhood memories from Denver, Colorado, and details his personality traits and interests. Hilliard recalls his elementary and high school days and mentions mentors who influenced and encouraged him along the way. Asa Hilliard, III, then talks of contemplating his post high school plan.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_001_003, TRT: 0:29:10 2003/05/06

Professor of educational psychology Asa Hilliard, III, recalls his reasoning for attending the University of Denver and for studying psychology. After discussing his extracurricular interests he mentions graduate school mentors. Hilliard explains his career path after graduate school as he talks about his teaching career and the time he spent in Liberia with the Peace Corps. Asa Hilliard gives details on the social climate around San Francisco State University during the mid-1960s.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_002_004, TRT: 0:29:33 2005/06/20

Asa Hilliard, III attended Manual Training High School in the Five Points neighborhood of Denver, Colorado. There, he met students from different racial backgrounds. While the school's overall curriculum was geared toward industrial education, Hilliard had several teachers, including his English and mathematics instructors, who followed college preparatory guidelines. Hilliard later joined his friend, George "Ed" Riddick, in advocating for the inclusion of African American studies. As a teenager, Hilliard was active in the Boy Scouts of America and the Young Men's Christian Association; and he worked as a school janitor to support his family's income. He also studied African dance under ballerina Ernestine Smith. Upon graduating from high school in 1951, Hilliard received the Joe E. Miller Foundation scholarship to attend the University of Denver, where he majored in psychology. In 1955, Hilliard, who was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, enlisted in the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_002_005, TRT: 0:29:40 2005/06/20

Asa Hilliard, III was taught by Bernard Spilka while pursuing his master's degree in counseling at the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado. Under the mentorship of Francis Brush, Hilliard also taught philosophy in the Centennial Scholars Honors Program at the university. Around this time, Hilliard grew interested

in African American history; and he began reading scholarship by historians like George G. M. James, Joel Augustus Rogers and Yosef ben-Jochannan, whom he later met. In 1963, upon receiving his doctorate degree in educational psychology from the University of Denver, Hilliard was hired to teach at San Francisco State College in San Francisco, California. He later led the teacher training development program for Peace Corps volunteers in Liberia. At this point, Hilliard talks about psychological theorists of race, such as Charles Murray and Richard Herrnstein who co-authored 'The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life.' He also recalls meeting John Henrik Clarke.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section A2003_098_002_006, TRT: 0:30:40 2005/06/20

Asa Hilliard, III was the advisor to the Peace Corps staff development program in Liberia in the 1960s. In the capital of Monrovia, he also served as the interim superintendent of schools. While there, Hilliard abstained from political involvement; and he maintained a broad network of American and Liberian social contacts such as Horace G. Dawson and Lula Cole Dawson. Hilliard returned to San Francisco State College in San Francisco, California as the chairman of the Department of Secondary Education. He also chaired the hiring committee for the Department of Black Studies, which brought in tenured professors like Oba T'Shaka and Raye Richardson. During his time at San Francisco State College, Hilliard was active in the Association of Black Psychologists and the National Black Child Development Institute. At this point in the interview, Hilliard talks about the influx of mental health centers in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as the eventual dissolution of the Westside Community Mental Health Center.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section A2003_098_002_007, TRT: 0:28:00 2005/06/20

Asa Hilliard, III chaired a taskforce at the National Black Child Development Institute to consult on the newly introduced Head Start licensing exam. During this time, he was inspired to join the faculty at Georgia State University. As the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Urban

Education, Hilliard taught courses in the early childhood, counseling and educational psychology departments. He and his colleagues, including Charles Finch and Askia Toure, sponsored the creation of the Nile Valley Conference at Morehouse College; and they went on to spur the expansion of the African history curriculum across the Atlanta University Center Consortium. At this point in the interview, Hilliard talks about the field of Egyptology; the scholarship of Egyptologists like Zahi Hawass and Cheikh Anta Diop; and the anthropological and forensic research that guided the development of the King Tutankhamun exhibit. He also talks about the inaugural issue of *The Journal of African Civilizations* by Dr. Ivan Van Sertima.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_002_008, TRT: 0:29:20 2005/06/20

Asa Hilliard, III served as the second vice president of the Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations (ASCAC). In 1987, Hilliard worked with Yosef ben-Jochannan, John Henrik Clarke and others to organize a four-day conference in Egypt. They also facilitated a one thousand-member group tour of the country, from Cairo to Daboud. At this point in the interview, Hilliard talks about Egypt's Nubian ethnolinguistic group; and the patterns of migration on the African continent. In 1989, Hilliard joined community leader Ron Herndon in the development of the African-American Baseline Essays in Portland, Oregon. They employed the expertise of scholars like Beatrice Lumpkin and Hunter Havelin Adams III. The Portland Public Schools eventually adopted the guidelines, which teachers used to infuse their curriculum with African American history. The essays also served as the model for other cities' curriculum of inclusion, despite condemnation from historians Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. and Diane Ravitch.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_002_009, TRT: 0:30:00 2005/06/20

Asa Hilliard, III identified as a Pan African nationalist, and was connected to the Afrocentrism movement as a scholar. He published a number of works over the course of his academic career, including 'SBA: The Reawakening

of the African Mind’; ‘African Power: Affirming African Indigenous Socialization in the Face of the Culture Wars’; and ‘The Maroon Within Us: Selected Essays on African American Community Socialization,’ which addressed the intra-cultural aspects of the African American community. At this point in the interview, Hilliard talks about the importance of teaching African history; the critics of Afrocentrism, such as Stephen Howe; and the rifts within the field of Egyptology. Hilliard also reflects upon his hopes and concerns for the African American community, as well as his life and legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Asa Hilliard, III, Section
A2003_098_002_010, TRT: 0:16:20 2005/06/20

Asa Hilliard, III and his wife, Patsy Jo Hilliard, married in 1957. They went on to have four children together: Asa Hilliard IV, Robi Hilliard Herron, Patricia Hilliard Nunn and M. Hakim Hilliard. He talks about the support of his parents, Asa Hilliard, II and Lois Lowe Williams, who separately accompanied him on his travels to Liberia and Egypt. Hilliard reflects upon his upbringing, including the impact of his early employment in the maintenance and service industries on his academic career and personality. He concludes the interview by describing how he would like to be remembered.