

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carole Henderson Tyson

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Tyson, Carole Henderson, 1942-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carole Henderson Tyson,
Dates:	November 14, 2003
Bulk Dates:	2003
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:22:26).
Abstract:	International affairs expert and nonprofit chief executive Carole Henderson Tyson (1942 -) founded Henderson's Global Voices, a speakers bureau of Middle Eastern and African experts. Tyson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 14, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2003_269
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Carole Henderson Tyson was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on August 29, 1942 of parents who were pioneers in the field of African travel and tourism. Their company, Henderson Travel, was founded in 1955. After finishing high school, Tyson attended Tufts University, where she earned a B.A. in languages in 1964. From there, she attended Howard University, earning her M.A. in French and African literature in 1968, and a Ph.D. in anthropology and education from Harvard University in 1970.

Following her graduation from Tufts University, Tyson worked as a French

teacher in Danbury, Connecticut. In the year between her M.A. and Ph.D., she worked as a lecturer at the University of California-Berkeley. Tyson married her husband John Tyson in 1971, and the following year, they traveled to Tanzania to study child development. Returning to the United States, she began work for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), where she oversaw economic development plans for Senegal in 1983 and Lesotho from 1986 to 1988. Tyson was then appointed vice president for international affairs at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. She currently works for the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program at Howard University, and as president and CEO of Henderson's Global Voices, a speaker's bureau that supplies speakers with expertise on Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East to corporations, academia and other organizations.

Active in numerous organizations, Tyson is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs and sits on the board of trustees of the International Foundation for Education and Self Help (IFESH). She is also a former trustee of Clark Atlanta University and the former president of Black Professionals in International Affairs.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carole Henderson Tyson was conducted by Larry Crowe on November 14, 2003, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. International affairs expert and nonprofit chief executive Carole Henderson Tyson (1942 -) founded Henderson's Global Voices, a speakers bureau of Middle Eastern and African experts.

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

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:

Tyson, Carole Henderson, 1942-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Tyson, Carole Henderson, 1942---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Media Company Chief Executive

Nonprofit Chief Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers|CivicMakers

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 Carole Henderson Tyson, November 14, 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 Carole Henderson Tyson, Section A2003_269_001_001, TRT: 0:30:00 2003/11/14

Carole Henderson Tyson was born on August 29, 1942 in Atlanta, Georgia, to Jacob Henderson and Freddy Elmer Scarborough Henderson. Tyson's mother was from Franklinton, Louisiana and attended Southern University in Baton Rouge. Tyson's maternal great-great-grandfather was a slave in Virginia. He resisted moving with his master to Louisiana, and was severely beaten as a result. He was chained to the buggy and made to walk to Louisiana, but died on the way, after swallowing glass the night before to commit suicide. Years later, his family was given land after their master's death and Tyson's maternal great-grandfather, Isome Wilson lived relatively well as a farmer. One of his children, John Wilson, experienced a horrible family tragedy in 1934 when an altercation with his white neighbors over dipping a mule lead to the massacre of his family, and the lynching of one of his sons, Jerome Wilson. The incident is written about in 'The Star Creek Papers', by Horace Mann Bond and Julia W. Bond.

Video Oral History Interview with Carole Henderson Tyson, Section A2003_269_001_002, TRT: 0:30:15 2003/11/14

Carole Henderson Tyson's paternal grandmother was a religious woman who was a teacher and community leader. Jacob Henderson, Tyson's father, worked for the City of Atlanta managing housing projects. Tyson's mother, who was a fashion designer, came up with the idea to open a travel agency after traveling to Paris, France at the invitation of the French ambassador's wife. In Europe, she experienced a level of freedom she had never known in the U.S. In 1955, the Hendersons opened Henderson Travel Service in Atlanta, Georgia with the goal of giving other African Americans the opportunity to experience the freedom of international travel. The agency began by offering tours to Europe, and expanded its services to include Africa in 1957. The Hendersons

assisted in the development of tourism in Africa. In 1964, they organized a trip to Oslo, Norway for Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when he won the Nobel Peace Prize. Henderson talks about the African American expatriates her mother met on her trips to Paris.

Video Oral History Interview with Carole Henderson Tyson, Section A2003_269_001_003, TRT: 0:29:41 2003/11/14

Carole Henderson Tyson's mother arranged travel for prominent African American figures such as HistoryMaker Vernon Jordan, through Henderson Travel Service in Atlanta, Georgia. She also arranged travel for Reverend Leon Sullivan's African American summits; and, had the opportunity to interact with foreign leaders like, former President of Haiti, François Duvalier; Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Selassie; and Premier of the People's Republic of China, Zhou Enlai. Tyson grew up, primarily, in a segregated African American community in Atlanta where her family were friends with Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his family. When she was ten years old, her parents sent her to live with her mother's family in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California for a year to broaden her horizons. She attended Spelman Nursery School, Atlanta University Laboratory Elementary School-Oglethorpe and Henry McNeal Turner High School in Atlanta. In 10th grade, she entered Saint Mary's-in-the Mountains in Littleton, New Hampshire.

Video Oral History Interview with Carole Henderson Tyson, Section A2003_269_001_004, TRT: 0:30:00 2003/11/14

Carole Henderson Tyson attended Atlanta University Laboratory Elementary School- Oglethorpe. In 10th grade, she entered Saint Mary's-in-the-Mountains School in Bethlehem, New Hampshire where she had two great teachers. Tyson remembers being uninvited from her white friend's debutante party because the venue where it was held did not allow African Americans. Before her senior year, Tyson traveled to Europe for the first time. Tyson graduated from high school in 1960, and graduated from Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts in 1964. She studied at Spelman College during her sophomore year of college. After graduation, she studied French in Dijon, France and traveled to Senegal where she was

introduced to Negritude writers by U.S. ambassador to Senegal, Will Mercer Cook. Tyson taught French and ballet for two years in Connecticut, then earned her M.A. in French and African literature in 1968 from Howard University where she studied under Cook. She then taught at the University of California, Berkeley.

Video Oral History Interview with Carole Henderson Tyson, Section A2003_269_001_005, TRT: 0:30:00 2003/11/14

Carole Henderson Tyson taught at the University of California, Berkeley in 1969 and remembers the civil unrest in the Bay Area at the time. In 1970 she attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts to earn her Ph.D. in anthropology. In 1971, she married John Tyson and together, they moved to Nairobi, Kenya in 1973 to study child development. They became close with the Somali community there, and the large group of African American expatriates. Tyson remembers a Kenyan herder feeding her infant son camel's milk when she ran out of milk in the desert. Upon returning to the U.S., Tyson worked under Leon Damas at Howard University in Washington, D.C. from 1976 to 1978. In 1979, she joined the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where she would work for the next twenty years. Her first four years there were spent in Senegal, where her mission was to assist in the development of economic infrastructure, education, healthcare and food assistance. Tyson then moved to Lesotho.

Video Oral History Interview with Carole Henderson Tyson, Section A2003_269_001_006, TRT: 0:29:00 2003/11/14

Carole Henderson Tyson worked in Lesotho with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) assisting the country in becoming independent from South Africa. She spent a day in a gold mine experiencing the conditions of the miners. When she returned to the U.S., she worked for the State Department to recruit more African Americans. Tyson then became director of the Caribbean office of USAID, working in tumultuous Haiti, and then, in 1994, in Jamaica on their economic growth, during which time her father died, in 1997. Tyson remembers the vibrancy of Jamaican culture and the country's growth. She returned to the U.S. in 1998 and became vice

president of international affairs for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, doing research on the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa. Tyson later founded Henderson's Global Voices, which brings international speakers to American audiences. She describes her hopes for the African American community and considers what she would have done differently.

Video Oral History Interview with Carole Henderson Tyson, Section A2003_269_001_007, TRT: 0:23:30 2003/11/14

Carole Henderson Tyson reflects upon her legacy, describes how she would like to be remembered and narrates her photographs.