

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jack Hampton

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hampton, Jack, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton,
Dates:	July 21, 2004
Bulk Dates:	2004
Physical Description:	8 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:39:41).
Abstract:	Stained glass artist Jack Hampton (1947 -) created more than 10,000 original pieces, and repaired countless more through his company, A-Z Stained Glass. His works can be seen in more than fifty churches throughout Europe and the United States, as well as in private collections. Hampton was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 21, 2004, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2004_102
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Artisan Jack Hampton was born in Chicago, Illinois on January 18, 1947. Early on, he proved himself to be a good student in math and sciences, and after graduating from Englewood High School in 1964, Hampton enrolled in the Chicago Technical College, where he studied drafting and architectural sciences. He later transferred and earned his B.S. in architectural engineering and design from the Illinois Institute of Technology.

Hampton joined the United States Army in 1968, where he was a public information officer and an armorer. After his honorable discharge, he stayed in Europe and traveled for a short time before returning to his hometown of Chicago. After his return home, Hampton was hired by Sears Roebuck & Company as a salesman, where he remained until 1974. That year, he was named executive vice president of sales and marketing for Montgomery Wards, a position he kept for the next ten years.

While in Germany in 1970, Hampton worked briefly at Scholmyer Glass Company, and did work in Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom, as well. Hampton has continued with his stained glass creations, and in 1985 he put himself full-time into his artistic endeavors and his company, A to Z Stained Glass. To date, Hampton has created more than 10,000 original pieces, and has repaired countless more. His works can be seen in more than fifty churches throughout Europe and the United States, as well as in private collections.

Hampton was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 21, 2004.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jack Hampton was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 21, 2004, in Chicago,

Illinois, and was recorded on 8 Betacame SP videocassettes. Stained glass artist Jack Hampton (1947 -) created more than 10,000 original pieces, and repaired countless more through his company, A-Z Stained Glass. His works can be seen in more than fifty churches throughout Europe and the United States, as well as in private collections.

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:

Hampton, Jack, 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Hampton, Jack, 1947---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Stained Glass Artist

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 Jack Hampton, July 21, 2004. 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 Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_001, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Jack Hampton was born on January 18, 1947 in Chicago, Illinois. His mother, Rose Newman, was raised on a farm in Jackson, Mississippi and moved to Chicago in high school. Her father was the largest black landowner in Jackson. Hampton's father, Wellington Hampton, was born in Centralia, Illinois. Hampton's parents met at Englewood High School in Chicago. Hampton's mother was a homemaker most of his life and his father quit his job in construction to become an antique vendor at the Maxwell Street Market. Hampton's family lived in the Altgeld Gardens Homes briefly during the 1950s, but he was raised primarily in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. When he was eleven his brother drowned in the Calumet River. Hampton attended Jesse Sherwood Elementary School where he developed an interest in chemistry and met his lifelong mentor, Dr. Finch. As a child, Hampton enjoyed hunting with

his father, visiting the Museum of Science and Industry and exploring the city. He also held odd jobs to earn spending money.

Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_002, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Jack Hampton describes his childhood experiences in Chicago, Illinois including a scavenger hunt for Martians in Washington Park in 1957 and exploring downtown Chicago. Hampton's mother sold hot food at Maxwell Street Market where his father was initially an antique vendor. The business was successful and Hampton's father created the blueprints for Maxwell Street polish stands, attracting customers with the aroma of grilled onions. As a boy, Hampton was responsible for taking his two siblings to church on Sundays. Hampton also talks about Chicago's Englewood community and his experience at Jesse Sherwood Elementary School and Englewood High School Recognizing his talent, Hampton's architectural drafting teacher in high school suggested he take an extension home study course from Chicago Technical College. Consequently, he graduated high school in 1965 with a year of college credits toward architectural engineering. During high school, Hampton also joined the Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) in 1962.

Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_003, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Jack Hampton developed an interest in martial arts at local YMCAs in Chicago, Illinois. He would later meet his wife through their common interest in martial arts. As a student at Chicago's Englewood High School, Hampton worked in an upholstery shop. After graduating in 1965, he left home and continued working at the shop, which allowed him to enroll at Chicago Technical College. Hampton landed a part-time security job for the Burns Security Agency, and was promoted to detective in two years. Memorable experiences in the field included being invited into a home for coffee on a stakeout. In 1967, Hampton's visa application to see the World's Fair in Montreal, Canada triggered a U.S. Army draft notice. Hampton was sent to Fort Carson in Colorado after basic training. He describes the military's response to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination in 1968. Hampton avoided the Vietnam War by volunteering to become a battalion photographer; he was later assigned to overseas duty in Germany.

Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_004, TRT: 0:31:16 ?

Jack Hampton was a member of the first Cook County Sheriff Riot Squad in 1968 while on military leave. During his military career, Hampton was stationed at Fiori Kaserne in Aschaffenburg, Germany for overseas duty during the Vietnam War where he received armorer training. After he was discharged, he remained in Europe taking architectural photographs, many of which featured stained glass windows. To earn money for a return ticket to the United States, Hampton learned to repair stained glass windows. After returning to the States in 1970, he was hired as a salesman in the furniture department for Sears, Roebuck & Company. He rose to the position of interior decorator coordinator before leaving the company due to employment discrimination. He then worked as a marketing executive at Montgomery Ward before quitting retail altogether. Hampton went on to work as a part-time Maxwell Street vendor and a salesman for Vogue Tire Company before starting his own automobile accessory business, Tires Plus.

Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_005, TRT: 0:29:30 ?

Jack Hampton became a member of the Cook County Sheriff Riot Squad formed by Sheriff Richard Elrod while on military leave from Europe in 1968. After he returned to the United States in 1970, Hampton inherited his father's food truck on Maxwell Street and obtained a food sanitation license through a course at

Olive-Harvey College in Chicago, Illinois to continue his father's legacy. While working on Maxwell Street, Hampton began collecting, restoring, and selling old stained glass on a part-time basis. He met his wife, Jennifer Johnson Hampton, at a birthday party in 1970. They married in 1974 and both worked as deputy sheriffs at the Cook County Sheriff's Department where the couple developed a rape prevention program for schoolchildren. His wife later became an officer in the Chicago Police Department. Hampton talks about his friendship with HistoryMaker John Stroger who became his son's godfather. In 1985, he entered the stained glass business full-time by starting his own company, A to Z Stained Glass.

Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_006, TRT: 0:28:50 ?

Jack Hampton was unable to obtain a business loan from the U.S. Small Business Administration or from local banks in Chicago, Illinois in the 1980s. In an interview with the Chicago Tribune at a conference hosted by the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce Chicago, Hampton asserted that banks were afraid to loan money to black men. His comment made national headlines and prompted the president of Blue Island First National Bank to personally offer him a business loan if Hampton relocated to Blue Island, Illinois. Hampton subsequently secured a \$30,000 loan, and founded his own company, A to Z Stained Glass. Since he first entered the trade, he has witnessed the tremendous increase in the number of stained glass artisans and the growth of the market for stained glass, partially driven by an interest in rehabbing stained glass windows in traditional Chicago bungalows. He also talks about the process of making stained glass, the techniques he uses and his uncle that owned a stained glass repair shop in Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_007, TRT: 0:30:37 ?

Jack Hampton has restored stained glass windows in churches throughout the City of Chicago, Illinois. Many stained glass windows are unsigned, so in the course of his restoration work Hampton researches the architectural history of the buildings he works on to discover the original creator of the windows. He has worked on windows created by notable stained glass artists like Louis Comfort Tiffany, Louis Sullivan, and students of the architect Frank Lloyd Wright. He describes his favorite windows in Chicago. At the time of his interview, Hampton hoped to repair the windows at Mt. Pisgah Missionary Baptist Church. Hampton has three children. He imparts advice to aspiring stained glass window artists and talks about his hopes and concerns for the black community and what he would do differently. He also reflects upon his legacy and how he would like to be remembered. He concludes by narrating his photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Jack Hampton, Section A2004_102_001_008, TRT: 0:12:08 ?

Jack Hampton narrates his photographs.