

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Daniel Texidor Parker

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Parker, Daniel Texidor
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Daniel Texidor Parker,
Dates:	December 16, 2009
Bulk Dates:	2009
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:56:10).
Abstract:	Art collector, curator, and educator Daniel Texidor Parker (1941 -) was a counselor at Olive-Harvey College in Chicago, Illinois; and a collector of African, Caribbean and Asian art. His book 'African Art: The Diaspora and Beyond' was published in 2005. Parker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 16, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2009_146
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Art curator, collector, professor and author, Daniel Texidor Parker was born on January 6, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois and grew up in the Bronzeville neighborhood of Chicago during the post-World War II period. His mother, Annie Lee Parker, sparked Parker's interest in art by taking him to thrift shops, where she would purchase and restore various heirlooms. Parker attended DuSable High School. There, he took classes with Margaret Burroughs. A co-founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History, Burroughs was Parker's high school art teacher. He credits her for demonstrating how African art is an extension of

African culture, and African peoples across the Diaspora. Parker received his B.A. degree in education from what is now Chicago State University in 1964. He later received his M.A. degree in psychology from Roosevelt University in 1967.

Prior to becoming known for his collection and knowledge of African art, Parker worked as a counselor and educator in both the Chicago Public School and Chicago City College systems for 35 years. In 1989, Parker received a Distinguished Professor award from the board of the Chicago City College system for his work at Olive-Harvey College. Parker was also an advocate for African American teachers, professors and professionals in both systems. He retired from Olive-Harvey College in 2000.

Throughout his life, Parker maintained his passion for African art, collecting a priceless treasure of works, both from abroad and locally. Among the artists featured in his more than 400 piece collection include African American artists Debra Hand, Dale Washington, Andre Guichard, Makeba Kedem-DuBose and Anna T. Brown, and pieces hailing from Ghana, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Senegal. In 2003, Parker co-founded Diasporal Rhythms, a consortium of Chicago area art collectors dedicated toward the promotion of contemporary artists, notably from Chicago's South Side. In 2004, Parker offered a more in-depth look into his own collection and the broader legacy and history of black art, with the publication of his book, *African Art: The Diaspora and Beyond*. Parker and his longtime partner, Chicago artist Mark Livingston, also began to open Parker's Hyde Park home to visitors interested in viewing the collection. Parker's collection has also been shown at Chicago area art museums, and he has become a well-sought expert on African and African American art, recently helping Chicago Bear Charles Tillman develop his own budding collection. Mark Livingston died in 2007.

Parker was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 16, 2009.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Daniel Texidor Parker was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 16, 2009, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Art collector, curator, and educator Daniel Texidor Parker (1941 -) was a counselor at Olive-Harvey College in Chicago, Illinois; and a collector of African, Caribbean and Asian art. His book 'African Art: The Diaspora and Beyond' was published in 2005.

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:

Parker, Daniel Texidor

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Art Collector

Curator

Educator

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers|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 Daniel Texidor Parker, December 16, 2009. 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 Daniel Texidor Parker, Section A2009_146_001_001, TRT: 0:24:21 2009/12/16

Daniel Texidor Parker was born on January 6, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois to Annie Clark Parker and William Parker. His mother was born in 1908 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. After her parents died, she was raised by her oldest brother. She and her siblings eventually migrated north by way of Memphis, Tennessee to Chicago and Detroit, Michigan, to pursue better employment opportunities. Parker's father was born in 1908 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. There, he was raised by his grandmother, while his siblings were raised by their mother, Herninez Pacheco. Parker's paternal uncle, Juan Pacheco, worked as a police officer, and was a well-known labor activist in Bayamon. At nineteen years old, Parker's father migrated to the United States. During World War II, Parker's parents met at a dance in Chicago, and went on to have six children, including Parker, who was the oldest. Parker describes his likeness to his parents whereby he took after his father's temperament, and his mother's creativity.

Video Oral History Interview with Daniel Texidor Parker, Section A2009_146_001_002, TRT: 0:28:45 2009/12/16

Daniel Texidor Parker grew up at 51st Street and Wabash Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, in a predominantly African American community. His father, William Parker, cooked traditional Puerto Rican dishes; and worked in the Chicago stockyards. Parker and his family belonged to St. Mark United Methodist Church in Chicago where the pastor introduced him to jazz. As a young boy, he enjoyed watching television programs like ‘American Bandstand’ and the sitcom ‘Julia.’ He also remembers seeing ‘West Side Story’ with his siblings at the Owl Theatre on 47th Street in Chicago. Parker began his education at Chicago’s John Farren Elementary School. Early on, he used brown instead of white crayons to draw people; and read National Geographic. He went on to attend DuSable High School in Chicago, where he studied art under Margaret Burroughs, whose authentic style impressed him. Parker talks about the construction and later demise of Chicago’s public housing developments such as the Robert Taylor Homes.

Video Oral History Interview with Daniel Texidor Parker, Section A2009_146_001_003, TRT: 0:25:41 2009/12/16

Daniel Texidor Parker was a student at DuSable High School in Chicago, Illinois in 1954, when the DuSable Panthers became the first all-black basketball team to qualify for the Illinois high school state championship. During this time, Parker participated in the physics club, and met Timuel Black, who taught at DuSable High School. He also formed a singing group named The Royal Gents with his friends, and saw live music sets at the Regal Theater and the Grand Ballroom. Upon graduating in 1959, Parker matriculated as an architecture major at Woodrow Wilson Junior College in Chicago. As he struggled to find opportunities in the architecture field, he changed his major to education; and went on to obtain his bachelor’s degree and certification from Chicago Teachers College. Then, he was assigned to teach at Thomas Chalmers Elementary School on the West Side of Chicago. Parker talks about the representations of Africa in magazines like National Geographic and at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Video Oral History Interview with Daniel Texidor Parker, Section A2009_146_001_004, TRT: 0:28:45 2009/12/16

Daniel Texidor Parker studied Spanish for a summer in Mexico City, Mexico in 1964. Parker then began his teaching career at Thomas Chalmers Elementary School, located at Roosevelt Road and California Avenue on the West Side of Chicago, Illinois. At this point in the interview, he remembers Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, which led to riots in the area. Motivated to pursue a career in school counseling, Parker obtained his master's degree in psychology from Roosevelt University in Chicago in 1967. He went on to serve as a guidance counselor at Spry Upper Grade Center, which was also located on Chicago's West Side. After a year, Parker joined the counseling department at Olive-Harvey College, a member institution of the City Colleges of Chicago. There, Parker worked with a variety of students, including participants in the Black Power movement, as well as Vietnam War veterans who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Video Oral History Interview with Daniel Texidor Parker, Section A2009_146_001_005, TRT: 0:26:17 2009/12/16

Daniel Texidor Parker worked in the counseling department at Olive-Harvey College in Chicago, Illinois for over thirty years. He was a member of the college's United Black Staff, which helped Armstead Allen to establish the annual Black Studies Conference. Parker also joined the Association of Black Psychologists, led by clinical psychologist and activist Bobby E. Wright. During the Civil Rights Movement, Parker participated in marches with St. Mark United Methodist Church, and became interested in Chicago's arts scene, which included Kuumba Theatre and the Afro-Arts Theater. As Parker began to collect African artwork, he was mentored by Patrick Woodtor, the owner of Windows to Africa, a gallery in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. At this point in the interview, Parker talks about the characteristics of African art, such as maternal imagery; and explains his interest in art of the Yoruba, given their ties to Puerto Rico. He also reflects upon the existence of an African aesthetic.

Video Oral History Interview with Daniel Texidor Parker, Section A2009_146_001_006, TRT: 0:29:40 2009/12/16

Daniel Texidor Parker published his book, 'African Art: The Diaspora and Beyond,' in 2004, which featured works by artists of African origin who lived throughout the world. With fellow collectors Carol Briggs, Patric McCoy and Joan Dameron Crisler, Parker co-founded the Chicago-based art collective, Diasporal Rhythms, which sought to highlight work by lesser-known African American artists. In July of 2008, Parker suffered a house fire that destroyed a million dollars' worth of his collection. Nevertheless, at the time of the interview, his collection contained over five hundred pieces of art, including paintings, masks, sculptures and furniture. He talks about his friend, Mark Livingston, an artist who also worked in art therapy; and his family. Parker concludes this part of the interview by reflecting upon his life, legacy and how he would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Daniel Texidor Parker, Section A2009_146_001_007, TRT: 0:12:41 2009/12/16

Daniel Texidor Parker narrates his photographs.