

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Howard W. French

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	French, Howard W.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French,
Dates:	August 28, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:15:39).
Abstract:	Journalist and professor Howard W. French (1957 -) was an associate professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He worked at The New York Times for over twenty years as a bureau chief in Central America, the Caribbean, West Africa, Japan, the Koreas, and China, and authored three books: <i>A Continent for the Taking</i> ; <i>Disappearing Shanghai</i> ; and <i>China's Second Continent</i> . French was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 28, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_193
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist and professor Howard W. French was born on October 14, 1957 in Washington, D.C. to Carolyn Alverda Howard French and David Marshall French, a doctor. French received his B.A. degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1979.

French first worked as a translator in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in the early 1980s, and taught English literature at the University of Ivory Coast until 1982. From 1982 to 1986, he worked as a freelance reporter for *The Washington Post* and several other publications in West Africa, including *Africa News* and *African Business*. He was then hired by *The New York Times* in 1986, and worked as a metropolitan reporter in New York City for three years. From 1990 to 2008, French reported for *The New York Times* as a bureau chief for Central America and the Caribbean, West Africa, Japan and the Koreas, and China in Shanghai.

From 1998 to 1999, French was a visiting scholar at the University of Hawaii, and in the spring of 1999, was a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center, in Honolulu. While working at *The New York Times*, he also served as a weekly columnist on global affairs for the *International Herald Tribune* from 2005 to 2008. In 2008, French left *The New York Times* and became an associate professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. He went on to serve as a 2011 fellow of the Open Society Foundations.

In 2004, French published *A Continent for the Taking: The Tragedy and Hope of Africa*, which was named non-fiction book of the year by several newspapers, and won the 2005 American Library Association Black Caucus Award for Non-Fiction. He later authored *China's Second Continent: How a Million Migrants Are Building a New Empire in Africa*, published in 2014. Also a documentary photographer, French co-authored and contributed photographs to the 2012 book, *Disappearing Shanghai: Images and Poems of an Intimate Way of Life*. His work as

a journalist has been published in *The Atlantic*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Nation*, *Rolling Stone*, *Transition*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Crisis*, and *Travel and Leisure*. French was twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and was twice a recipient of an Overseas Press Club Award. He won the Grantham Environmental Award, and received an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Maryland. In addition, *The New York Times* awarded French its highest prize, the Publisher's Award, six times. French also served as a board member of the *Columbia Journalism Review*.

French lives in New York City. He and his wife, Agnes, have two sons.

Howard W. French was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 28, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Howard W. French was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on August 28, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist and professor Howard W. French (1957 -) was an associate professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He worked at The New York Times for over twenty years as a bureau chief in Central America, the Caribbean, West Africa, Japan, the Koreas, and China, and authored three books: *A Continent for the Taking*; *Disappearing Shanghai*; and *China's Second Continent*.

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:

French, Howard W.

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
French, Howard W.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Journalist

Professor

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Howard W. French, August 28, 2014. 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 Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_001, TRT: 1:30:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_002, TRT: 2:30:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_003, TRT: 3:08:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_004, TRT: 4:31:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_005, TRT: 5:36:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_006, TRT: 6:32:52 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_007, TRT: 7:39:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_008, TRT: 8:31:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Howard W. French, Section A2014_193_001_009, TRT: 9:16:09 ?