

DeWayne Wickham Collection
MS 79

Finding aid updated by Natalie DeMuro
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Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections
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Summary Information

Repository	Enoch Pratt Free Library, Special Collections
Title	DeWayne Wickham Collection
Date [inclusive]	1960s-2010s
Date [bulk]	1970s-2000s
Extent	55 boxes of manuscript material, 12 boxes of audio-visual material. Approx. 42 linear feet.
Language	English, Spanish
Mixed Materials [Box]	Papers, notebooks, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, books, letters, photos, audio and video tapes, memory discs.
Container [location]	Seventh Stack
Abstract	<p>Columnist DeWayne Wickham was born July 22, 1946, in Baltimore, Maryland. He earned his B.S.J. degree and a certificate in African American studies from the University of Maryland in 1974 and his M.P.A. from the University of Baltimore, in 1982. Wickham has been a lifelong member of the NAACP and served in the United States Air Force where he attained the rank of sergeant. Wickham's journalism career spans from the 1970s-2010s. In that time, Wickham wrote for The Baltimore Evening Sun, U.S. News and World Report, USA Today, and other publications, and he was a talk show host for WBAL-TV from 1976 to 1989. Wickham was a founding member of the National Association of Black Journalist (NABJ) and The Trotter Group, and he served as a distinguished professor at different universities. Wickham is the author of <i>Fire At Will</i> (1989); <i>Woodholme: A Black Man's Story of Growing Up Alone</i> (1995); and <i>Bill Clinton and Black America</i> (2002); and is the editor of <i>Thinking Black: Some of the Nation's Best Black Columnists Speak Their Mind</i> (1996).</p> <p>The collection represents Mr. Wickham's professional journalism career and includes research materials, notebooks, drafts, correspondence, and A/V materials.</p>
Access	By appointment (SPC, 443-984-2451, spc@prattlibrary.org). Some materials may be restricted.

Biographical/Historical Information

Journalist, educator, columnist, and public figure DeWayne Wickham was born July 22, 1946, in Baltimore, Maryland. His mother, DeSylvia Virginia Chase, was related to a Buffalo Soldier and his father, John Trevillion Wickham, was a member of the Wickham House Museum's Wickham family, of Richmond, Virginia. Tragedy orphaned Wickham who was raised by his Aunt Annette in Baltimore. He attended Cherry Hill Elementary School and Junior High School and four high schools. In 1964, he joined the United States Air Force, where he attained the rank of sergeant and was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal. Wickham attended Community College of Baltimore from 1970 to 1972, and he earned a BS degree in journalism and certificate in Afro-American Studies from the University of Maryland at College Park in 1974. He then earned his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Baltimore, in 1982.

From 1972 to 1973, Wickham served at the Baltimore Evening Sun as an intern, and became a copy-editing intern for the Richmond Times Dispatch in 1974. He was Capitol Hill correspondent for U.S. News and World Report from 1973 to 1975, where he reported on the Watergate trial. Wickham was a reporter with the Baltimore Sun from 1975 to 1978 and was a talk show host for Baltimore's WBAL-TV from 1976 to 1989. He was a columnist for Gannett News Service in 1985 and started writing his column for USA Today in 1988, which was published for more than 30 years. He also has served as a contributing editor to Black Enterprise magazine, and during his journalism career he worked for CBS News and BET, as well. He is the author of *Fire At Will* (1989); *Woodholme: A Black Man's Story of Growing Up Alone* (1995); and *Bill Clinton and Black America* (2002); and is the editor of *Thinking Black: Some of the Nation's Best Black Columnists Speak Their Mind* (1996).

During his career, Wickham was part of the press corps that accompanied Nelson Mandela on his 1992 U.S. tour and was one of twelve journalists who accompanied Jean Bertrand Aristide back to Haiti in 1994. In 1995, Wickham led the first delegation of black columnists to the White House for a meeting with United States President Bill Clinton, and he led the group back for another lengthy session in 1997. In 2015, he and other black journalist joined President Barack Obama aboard Air Force One to commemorate the 50th anniversary of marching for voting rights.

A founding member of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), Wickham served as president from 1987 to 1989. He is also a founding member of The Trotter Group of black newspaper writers and journalist. In 2000, Wickham, created the Institute for Advanced Journalism Studies, and he was a Distinguished Professor at Delaware State University and North Carolina A&T State University. Wickham is also the founding dean of Morgan State University's School of Global Journalism & Communication. Wickham is the recipient of the Award of Special Merit from the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and he received NABJ's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002.

A lifetime member of the NAACP, Wickham has three daughters, Vanessa Wickham Baker, Zenita Wickham Hurley and Mikella Wickham. He is married to Diane Ida Wickham (nee Harris) and splits his time between Pikesville, Md., and Orlando.

Bibliography:

"DeWayne Wickham," *The History Makers*, <https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/dewayne-wickham-41>. Accessed 11/12/2024.

Scope & Contents

The collection reflects DeWayne Wickham's career as a journalist, author, educator, and public figure. Included in the collection are research files, interviews, working drafts, correspondence, ephemera, pamphlets, and A/V materials (audio and video tapes). The collection provides materials on African-American journalism, journalism in the United States, social and political commentary (especially during the 1990s-2000s), and interviews with prominent public figures. In the collection are research files on prominent NAACP members and the history of the NAACP from the 1970s-1990s.

Arrangement

Mr. Wickham's papers came to Special Collections as 15 banker boxes of paper-based material and 12 boxes of audio-visual material. Most of the paper-based collection in the first 15 boxes was grouped into subject folders with no apparent chronological or alphabetical order. To balance intellectual arrangement and best reflect the original order created by Mr. Wickham the collection is grouped into the series below. Within each series, folders have been arranged alphabetically. There is an inventory of the Series 9 - A/V Material Series (no arrangement).

- Series 1- Subject Files, A-Z
- Series 2- Bill Clinton and Black America
- Series 3- Correspondence
- Series 4- NAACP Reference Files
- Series 5- 2000 Presidential Election
- Series 6- Watergate Files
- Series 7- Printed & Published Material
- Series 8- Oversized Material
- Series 9- Audio/Visual Material
- Series 10- Columns (digital files)

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Enoch Pratt Free Library Special Collections February, 2004

Preferred Citation

DeWayne Wickham Collection (1960s-2010s), Special Collections, Enoch Pratt Free Library/Maryland's State Library Resource Center.

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Deposited by DeWayne Wickham.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Names/Places

- Baltimore, MD
- Cuba
- Detroit, MI
- Florida
- Grenada
- Haiti
- Maryland
- Universities
 - Delaware State University
 - Morgan State University
 - North Carolina A&T State University
- South Africa
- Washington, D. C.

Names

- Bush, George Walker
- Chavis, Ben
- Clinton, William Jefferson
- Cochran, Johnnie
- Gibson, William F.
- Gore, Al
- Hooks, Ben
- Jackson, Jesse
- Mfume, Kweisi
- Nixon, Richard Milhous
- Obama II, Barack Hussein
- Ogletree, Jr., Charles
- Thomas, Clarence
- Wickham, DeWayne
- Wilson, Margaret Bush
- Williams, Myrle Evers

Subjects

- African American
 - African American civic leaders
- Journalism
 - Journalism, African American
 - National Association of Black Journalist (NABJ)
 - Trotter Group
 - Journalism and Education
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- Politics and Communication
- Politics and Culture --
 - United States--History--20th century
 - United States--History--21th century
- Politics and Society
- Presidents of the United States
 - Bush, George Walker
 - Clinton, William Jefferson
 - Nixon, Richard Milhous
 - Obama II, Barack Hussein
- Race Relations--Political Aspects
- Race Relations--Press Coverage--United States
- Watergate
- Woodholme

Collection Inventory

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