Inventory of the
James E. Campbell Papers, 1930 - 2009
Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary................................................................................................................ 3
Biographical Note...................................................................................................................... 4
Collection Overview................................................................................................................... 5
Restrictions................................................................................................................................ 6
Subject Headings...................................................................................................................... 6
Related Material...................................................................................................................... 6
Separated Material.................................................................................................................... 6
Administrative Information....................................................................................................... 7
Detailed Description of the Collection....................................................................................... 9
  1. Correspondence, 1965-2005......................................................................................... 9
  3. Writings, 1952-1966.............................................................................................. 10
  4. Photographs, circa 1960s-1990.............................................................................. 10
  6. Subject Files, 1961-2009..................................................................................... 16
Descriptive Summary

Title: James E. Campbell Papers,

Dates: 1930 - 2009

Creator: Campbell, James E., 1925-.

Abstract: James E. Campbell (born 1925), an African American educator and civil rights activist, worked as a teacher in Baltimore, Maryland; New York, New York; and Tanzania. He later became an administrator with the New York City public school system. Campbell also served as contributing editor for the journal *Freedomways*. Relocating after retirement, he became a community activist in Charleston, South Carolina and continued his involvement with educational initiatives. Throughout his life, Campbell has worked with organizations focused on socialism, Pan-Africanism, freedom struggles, and equity in education.

This collection includes correspondence, writings, photographs, and other material documenting the personal, professional, and ideological interests of James E. Campbell. Correspondence includes letters written by Campbell to Betty Shabazz, letters from the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, and professional correspondence relating to Campbell's involvement with the Charleston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the South Carolina Algebra Project. Photographs include images of an Audubon Ballroom Rally attended by Malcolm X and Ella Lee-Little Collins, images of Nelson Mandela's 1990 visit to New York, and personal photographs. Professional materials chiefly relate to Campbell's career as an educator and school administrator in New York; his association with the Organization of Afro-American Unity's Liberation School; documentation of his tenure as an English teacher in Tanzania; and civic involvement related to educational issues in Charleston, South Carolina. A large portion of this series consists of printed material relating to the South Carolina Algebra Project, including transition curriculums and budgets; organizational materials, photographs, and a scrapbook related to Nelson Mandela's visit to New York in 1990; and pedagogical materials. Also included is material related to James E. Campbell's political and social activism. Subject files include interview transcripts of Malcolm X and printed material relating to Jesse Jackson, South Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean. Publications and clippings include international, national, and local newsletters, publications, newspaper, and magazine clippings assembled by James E. Campbell. Newspaper and magazine clippings are heavily represented, a large portion of which relate to the life, death and legacy of Malcolm X. Other topics include education in South Carolina and the United States; South African political and social issues, including apartheid; African American art, culture, and history; child welfare; economics and business; civil rights; and various issues in national and international politics. The collection also includes drafts of Campbell's poetry and other writings.
Biographical Note

James Eber Campbell was born in Charleston, South Carolina on July 31, 1925 to James and Eva Jones Campbell. He received his primary and secondary education at Immaculate Conception School in Charleston, South Carolina and the Voorhees Normal and Industrial School in Denmark, South Carolina.

In 1943, Campbell was drafted into the Marine Corps and served in the Pacific Theater during World War II. After the war, Campbell attended Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland. His studies were interrupted by employment and two years of stateside service as an Army reservist during the Korean War. He then returned to Morgan State, where he graduated with a major in English and a minor in theatre in 1953. After graduation, Campbell taught elementary school in Baltimore and helped organize the Arena Players, the only continuously running black theatre company in the United States. During this time, Campbell became an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1964, after relocating to New York City to teach, Campbell met Malcolm X, with whom he collaborated in creating the Organization of Afro-American Unity's Liberation School. He became a teacher for the New York City public school system and, during the summer, traveled to Mississippi and Georgia to register voters for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Campbell took graduate courses at the City University of New York from 1960 to 1967 and attended the Bank Street College of Education, where he earned a master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision in 1972.

From 1970 to 1975, Campbell was a contributing editor to *Freedomways*, a quarterly journal devoted to African American arts and culture.

From 1973 to 1982, Campbell taught English in Tanzania, first in Bihawana and later at the International School in Dar es Salaam. After teaching for nine years in Tanzania, Campbell returned to New York City to work as a school administrator until his retirement in 1991.

Throughout these years, Campbell collected a variety of monographs, pamphlets, and collected works that reflected his political and ideological interests and pursuits, including those on Marxism-Leninism (especially dialectical materialism), socialism, Pan-Africanism, Black Nationalism, African American literature, African literature in the late colonial period, freedom movements, and Afrocentric pedagogy.

After retirement, Campbell moved back to Charleston, South Carolina where, as of 2011, he remains active in local political and educational issues. Campbell has served as the state coordinator of the South Carolina Algebra Project, an advisory board member for the School of Education at the College of Charleston, and the chair of the Education Committee for the Charleston branch of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He has served as the national co-chairman of the Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism and has lead a socialist education project in Charleston.

James Campbell had three sons, Glenn, Gary, and Paul T. R., and one daughter, DuBois. As of 2011, he had four grandchildren: Urai Elaine Mitchell, Dylan Rivera, Jay Rivera, and DuBois M. V. Campbell. Campbell has regularly contributed to the Charleston County Public Library in honor of his daughter, the late DuBois Kenyatta Campbell.

Collection Overview

This collection includes correspondence, writings, photographs, and other material documenting the personal, professional, and ideological interests of James E. Campbell.

1. Correspondence includes letters to Betty Shabazz and letters from the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee as well as professional correspondence relating to Campbell's involvement with the Education Committee of the Charleston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as well as the South Carolina Algebra Project.

2. Professional Activities include material chiefly related to Campbell's career as an educator and school administrator in New York; his association with the Organization of Afro-American Unity's Liberation School; documentation of his tenure as an English teacher in Tanzania; and civic involvement related to educational issues in Charleston, South Carolina. A large portion of this series consists of printed material relating to the South Carolina Algebra Project, including transition curriculums and budgets; organizational materials, photographs, and a scrapbook related to Nelson Mandela's visit to New York in 1990; and pedagogical materials, including resource, teacher, and curriculum guides. Also included is material related to James E. Campbell's political and social activism.

3. Writings include poetry and original drafts of Campbell's written work.

4. Photographs include images of an Audubon Ballroom Rally attended by Malcolm X and Ella Lee-Little Collins, images of Nelson Mandela's 1990 visit to New York, and personal photographs.

5. Publications and Clippings include international, national, and local newsletters, publications, newspaper, and magazine clippings assembled by James E. Campbell that relate to his political, professional, and personal life. Newspaper and magazine clippings are heavily represented, a large portion of which relate to the life, death and legacy of Malcolm X. Other topics include education in South Carolina and the United States; South African political and social issues, including apartheid; African American art, culture, and history; child welfare; economics and business; civil rights; and various issues in national and international politics.

6. Subject Files include interview transcripts of Malcolm X; materials relating to the DuBois Kenyatta Campbell Memorial Collection inauguration; and printed material relating to Jesse Jackson, South Africa, Central America and the Caribbean.

Collection Arrangement

1. Correspondence, 1965-2005
3. Writings, 1952-1966
4. Photographs, circa 1960s-1990
5. Publications and Clippings, 1930-2009
6. Subject Files, 1961-2009
Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Related Material

James E. Campbell Collection

Separated Material

The James E. Campbell Collection of monographs, pamphlets, and collected works has been separated and individually cataloged in the College of Charleston's online catalog.

Issues of Freedomways, for which James E. Campbell served as contributing editor, have been separated and individually cataloged in the College of Charleston's online catalog.

1113-OPF/1

Subject Headings

African Americans -- History -- Study and teaching.

African American civil rights workers.

African American educators -- United States -- 20th century.

African American political activists -- United States -- 20th century.


African American social reformers -- United States -- 20th century.


African American teachers -- Tanzania -- 20th century

Algebra -- Study and teaching (Middle school) -- South Carolina.

Apartheid -- South Africa.

Blacks -- History -- Study and teaching.

Campbell, James E., 1925-.
Campbell, James E., 1925- -- Manuscripts.

Civil rights movements -- United States.

Civil rights workers -- United States.

Education -- Study and teaching.

Education -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Mandela, Nelson, 1918- -- Travel -- United States.

Mathematics -- Study and teaching (Middle school) -- South Carolina.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Charleston Branch (Charleston, S.C.).

Organization of Afro-American Unity.

Political activists -- United States -- 20th century.

School improvement programs -- South Carolina.


Shabazz, Betty -- Correspondence.

Social reformers -- United States -- 20th century.

South Africa -- Politics and government -- 20th century.

South Africa -- Race relations -- 20th century.

South Africa -- Social conditions -- 20th century.

Teachers -- New York (State) -- New York -- 20th century.

Teachers -- Tanzania -- 20th century.

United States -- Race relations -- 20th century.


Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], James E. Campbell Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information


Processing Information

Processed by Joshua Minor, May 2011

Encoded by Joshua Minor, June 2011
Edited by Jessica Farrell and Amanda Ross, June 2011

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the collection processing and encoding of this finding aid.
Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Correspondence, 1965-2005

This series includes both professional and personal correspondence related to James E. Campbell. Personal correspondence includes letters to Betty Shabazz and letters from the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee. Professional correspondence relates to Campbell's tenure as chair of the Education Committee for the Charleston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as well as state coordinator of the South Carolina Algebra Project.

Box 1 Folder 1  Fujino, Diane, 2001-2005
Box 1 Folder 2  Malcolm X Commemoration Committee, 1992-1995 and undated
Box 1 Folder 3  Rickford, Russell, 2002
Box 1 Folder 4  Shabazz, Betty, 1993-1997
Box 1 Folder 5  Professional Correspondence, 1972-1997 and undated
Box 1 Folder 7  Other Correspondence, 1964-1997 and undated


This series includes material associated with James E. Campbell’s career as an educator and school administrator in New York; his association with the Organization of Afro-American Unity's Liberation School; documentation of his tenure as an English teacher in Tanzania; and civic involvement related to educational issues in Charleston, South Carolina after his retirement in 1991. A large portion of this series consists of printed material relating to the South Carolina Algebra Project, including transition curriculums and budgets; organizational materials, photographs, and a scrapbook related to Nelson Mandela’s visit to New York in 1990; and pedagogical materials, including resource, teacher, and curriculum guides. Also included is material related to James E. Campbell’s political and social activism.

Box 1 Folder 8  Action Research Seminar, 1963
Box 1-2 Folder 9-13  The Algebra Project, 1989-1998 and undated
Box 3 Folder 14  Burke High School, 1996-1997 and undated
Box 3 Folder 15  Charleston County School District, 1993-1998 and undated
Box 3 Folder 16  Charleston County School District: ACT 135, 1993-1994 and undated
Box 3 Folder 17  Charleston County School Bond Referendum, 1998 and undated
Box 3 Folder 18  Charter Schools, 1996 and undated
Box 4 Folder 19  Fisk University, 1980
Box 4 Folder 20  Ichud Habonim Labor Zionist Youth: Seminar on Race, Minorities and Civil Rights, 1963
Box 4 Folder 21  I.S. 201 Complex, New York, 1968-1969 and undated
Box 4 Folder 22  Nelson Mandela: New York Anti-Apartheid Welcoming Committee, 1990 and undated
3. Writings, 1952-1966

This series contains poetry written by James E. Campbell and published in the *Morgan State College Bulletin: Creative Writing Edition* and *Temporary Reprieve: A Collection of Original Poems*. Also included is an original draft of a "Tribute to Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois," part of *Freedomways* magazine's 1966 Town Hall performance of *The Souls of Black Folk*.

Box 6 Folder 31  Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and the Abyssinian Baptist Church, undated
Box 6 Folder 32  Poetry, 1952-1954
Box 6 Folder 33  Tribute to Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, 1966 and undated

4. Photographs, circa 1960s-1990

This series includes images of an Audubon Ballroom Rally, attended by Malcolm X and Ella Lee-Little Collins; images of Nelson Mandela's 1990 visit to New York; personal photographs taken at Du Bois Campbell's third birthday party; and a photograph of James E. Campbell, James Earl Jones, and August Wilson at the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania.

Box 6 Folder 34  Audubon Ballroom Rally: Malcolm X, circa 1960s
Box 6 Folder 35  Audubon Ballroom Rally: Ella Lee-Little Collins, circa 1960s
Box 6 Folder 36  Du Bois Campbell: Birthday Party, 1966

Includes Betty Shabazz and unidentified others.
Box 6 Folder 37-38 Nelson Mandela: Visit to New York - Scrapbook, 1990

Includes scrapbook pages and loose photographs documenting Nelson Mandela's 1990 visit to New York as part of a world tour.

Box 6 Folder 39 U. S. Embassy in Tanzania: Group Photograph, 1978

Includes a photograph depicting James E. Campbell seated next to James Earl Jones, August Wilson, and unidentified others.


This series includes international, national, and local newsletters, publications, and clippings assembled by James E. Campbell. Newsletters collected by James E. Campbell reflect his interest in South Africa and his work as an educator. A portion of the publications relate to the life, death and legacy of Malcolm X, including pamphlets of speeches and lectures, magazine articles, and clippings. Additional publications relate to civil rights, labor, and education.

Newspaper and magazine clippings collected by James E. Campbell are heavily represented in this series. Topics include education in South Carolina and the United States; South African political and social issues, including apartheid; African American art, culture, and history; child welfare; economics and business; civil rights; and various issues in national and international politics. Also included are two photocopied packets of newspaper clippings, created for use by the Charleston branch of NAACP Education Committee. Additional clippings relating to individuals, including Amiri Baraka, Malcolm X, Attalah, Betty, and Qubilah Shabazz, Nelson Mandela, Mao Tse Tung, and others.

5.1 Newsletters, 1964-1999

| Box 6 Folder 40 | *Africa News*, 1990 |
| Box 6 Folder 42 | *AFSA News*, 1997 |
| Box 6 Folder 43 | *Agencia de Informacao de Mocambique* (Mozambique Information Agency), 1979 |
| Box 6 Folder 44 | *American Committee on Africa: Action News*, 1990 |
| Box 6-7 Folder 45-46 | *Association of Concerned Africa Scholars: ACAS Newsletter*, 1985-1990 |
| Box 7 Folder 48 | *The Center for Law and Justice, Inc. Advocate*, 1998-1999 |
| Box 7 Folder 49 | *Educators against Racism and Apartheid*, 1990-1991 |
| Box 7 Folder 50 | *Facts and Reports: Press Cuttings on Southern Africa*, 1978-1979 |
| Box 7 Folder 51 | *The Ford Foundation Letter*, 1989 |
| Box 7 Folder 52 | *Harlem Youth Report*, 1964 |
| Box 7 Folder 53 | *Labor against Apartheid*, circa 1990s |
| Box 7 Folder 54 | *The Monitor*, 1987 |
Box 7 Folder 55  Mozambique Support Network Newsletter, 1991
Box 7 Folder 56  Namibia News, 1976
Box 7 Folder 57  Organization of Afro-American Unity: OAAU Newsletter, 1964
Box 7 Folder 58  South African Digest, 1990
Box 7 Folder 59  Southern Africa Perspectives, 1989-1990
Box 7 Folder 60  The Spirit of January Monthly, 1991, undated

5.2 Publications, 1930-2003

Box 8 Folder 61  Africa, 1965-1983
Box 8 Folder 62  African Challenge: The Story of the British in Tropical Africa, 1945
Box 8 Folder 63  Amistad, 1970-2000
Box 8 Folder 65  James Baldwin: Magazine Articles, 1963-1971

Includes issues of Mademoiselle, Commentary, and McCall’s.

Box 8 Folder 66  Children of Poverty, 1990
Box 8 Folder 67  Civil Rights, 1962-1965 and undated


Box 8 Folder 68  The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual, 1970
Box 8 Folder 69  W. E. B. Du Bois., 1930-2003

Includes Africa: Its Place in Modern History (1930), "Honoring Du Bois" (1968), "In These My Words: In Memoriam to W. E. B. Du Bois," Freedomways magazine Town Hall performance program, and assorted souvenir programs and pamphlets. Also includes newspaper clippings from national newspapers and Charleston, South Carolina newspapers.

Duplicate pamphlets have been individually cataloged.

Box 8-9 Folder 70-71  Education, 1963-1987 and undated
Box 9 Folder 72  Harlem Youth Opportunities Unlimited, 1966
Box 9 Folder 73  The Hoax of Anti-Communism, undated
Box 9 Folder 74  Labor, 1969, 1997, undated

Includes A Plan for Black Liberation, Nazis without Swastikas: The Lyndon LaRouche Cult and its War on American Labor, and The Triple Revolution.
Box 9 Folder 75  
**Letter from a Birmingham City Jail, 1963**

Box 9 Folder 76  
**Malcolm X: Pamphlets, 1965-1969**


Duplicate pamphlets have been individually cataloged.

Box 9 Folder 77  
**Malcolm X: Magazine Articles, 1965-2002**

Includes issues of *Jet, Liberator, Time, The Crisis, Ebony, Emerge*, and *Newsweek* containing articles focused on the life, death, and legacy of Malcolm X.

Box 10 Folder 78  
**Malcolm X (Motion Picture), 1992-1993**

Includes issues of *People Weekly, Ebony, New York Times Magazine*, and *Rolling Stone* containing articles focused on the 1992 release of the motion picture *Malcolm X*. Also includes newspaper clippings from national newspapers and Charleston, South Carolina newspapers.

Box 10 Folder 79  
**The Mandela Document, 1990**

Box 10 Folder 80  
**Negro History Bulletin, 1967**

Box 10 Folder 81  
**Racism in America and How to Combat It, 1970**

Box 10 Folder 82  
**Socialism and Democracy, undated**

Box 10 Folder 83  
**Southern Regional Council, 1960-1965 and undated**

Includes *A Hundred Years Later, Southern Justice: An Indictment, Southern Regional Council reports, 1960-1964, A City Slum-Poor People and Problems*, a percentage of non-white population in counties of Southern States map and a poster consisting of headlines related to the Mississippi riots of 1962, both prepared by the Southern Regional Council.

Box 10 Folder 84  
**The Student Organization for Black Unity, 1970 and undated**

Box 10 Folder 85  
**Teaching about Malcolm X: Resources and Objectives, 1993**

Box 10 Folder 86  
**Unions under Attack, undated**

Box 10 Folder 87  
**Unite for Freedom, undated**

Box 10 Folder 88  
**What's Wrong with Joey?, undated**

Box 10 Folder 89  
**Youth in the Ghetto: A Study of the Consequences of Powerlessness and a Blueprint for Change, 1964**

5.3 Newspaper and Magazine Clippings, 1959-2007
Box 11 Folder 90  
African American Art and Culture, 1963-2006 and undated

Box 11 Folder 91  
African American Community and Police Relations, 1991-1997

Box 11 Folder 92  
African American History, 1962-1997 and undated

Box 11 Folder 93  
Art and Culture, 1983-2007 and undated

Box 11 Folder 94  

Box 11 Folder 95  
Civil Rights, 1959-2002 and undated

Box 11 Folder 96  
Crime and the American Criminal Justice System, 1989-1998 and undated

Box 12 Folder 97  
Economics and Business, 1983-2002 and undated

Box 12-13 Folder 98-103  
Education
Charleston County School Bond Referendum, Charleston, SC, 1998 and undated
Charleston County School District, 1991-1998 and undated
Charleston County School Board, 1995-1998 and undated
Magnet Schools, 1996-1998 and undated
South Carolina Education, 1995-1998 and undated
United States Education, 1968-2005 and undated

Box 13 Folder 104  
Hate Crimes, Discrimination, and Racism, 1980-2005 and undated

Box 13-14 Folder 105-125  
Individuals
Baldwin, James, 1968
Baraka, Amiri, 1984
Challenger Astronauts, 1983-1984 and undated
Includes photo album of clippings.
Cohen, Bessie, 1999
Du Bois, W. E. B., 1961
Ellison, Ralph, 1994-2002
Farrakhan, Louis, 1984, 1990
Ferguson, Herman, 1989 and undated
Jackson, Jesse, 1987-1988 and undated
King, Martin Luther, 1963-1994
Leakey, Mary, 1996
Mandela, Nelson, 1987-1994 and undated
Morrison, Toni, 1987-2003 and undated
Nyerere, Julius, 1996, 1999
Rockefellers, 1992-2000
Shabazz, Attallah, 1990-1997
Shabazz, Betty, 1997
Shabazz, Qubilah, 1995
Tung, Mao Tse 1976
Wilson, August, 1991, 2004
Malcolm X, 1965-1999 and undated

Box 15 Folder 126-127 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP): Charleston Branch - Education Committee, 1971-1996 and undated


Box 15 Folder 128-129 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP): Charleston Branch - Education Committee, 1990-1996 and undated


Box 16 Folder 130-139 Politics

Africa, 1982-1997 and undated
Charleston County, South Carolina, 1995-1998
CIA and Crack Cocaine Connection, 1996
Cuba, 1977-1995
Labor Unions, 1994-1998
National, 1970-2005 and undated
Socialism and Communism, 1983-2000 and undated
South Africa, 1977-2004 and undated
South Carolina, 1996-1998 and undated
5.4 Magazines, 1962-2003

- Box 17 Folder 146 Africa, 1962-1990 and undated
- Box 17 Folder 147 *The Nation*, 1995-1998
- Box 18 Folder 150 *Time*, 1971-1996

6. Subject Files, 1961-2009

This series contains various printed material, newspaper and magazine clippings, relating to the political, professional and personal interests of James E. Campbell. Included are interview transcripts of Malcolm X, materials related to the Du Bois Kenyatta Campbell Memorial Collection inauguration, newspaper clippings, and printed material relating to Jesse Jackson, South Africa, Central America and the Caribbean.

- Box 19 Folder 154 Arts and Culture, 1969-2002 and undated
- Box 19 Folder 155 Central America and the Caribbean, 1984, 1989 and undated
- Box 19 Folder 156 Du Bois Kenyatta Campbell Memorial Collection, 1992
- Box 19 Folder 157 The Institute for Research in African-American Studies, 1997-2001 and undated
- Box 20 Folder 158 Jesse Jackson, 1987-1988
- Box 20 Folder 159 Malcolm X: Assassination and trial, 1965 and undated
- Box 20 Folder 160 Malcolm X: Interviews, 1961-2009, undated
  Includes interview transcripts of Malcolm X and historians speaking about Malcolm X.
- Box 20 Folder 161 Malcolm X: Tributes and Memorials, 1993-2001 and undated
- Box 20 Folder 162 Operation Lost Trust, 1997
- Box 20 Folder 163 South Africa, 1978-1991 and undated
Box 20 Folder 164 United States Draft Counselor's Manual, 1967