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Descriptive Summary

Title: Peter H. Wood Papers,

Dates: 1964-1974

Dates: 1964-1974

Bulk: 1973-1974

Creator: Wood, Peter H., 1943-

Abstract: Peter Hutchins Wood (1943-), is an American historian who authored, "Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion." Wood was a Humanities Officer for the Rockefeller Foundation before teaching Colonial American history at Duke University from 1975 to 2008, where he was named Professor Emeritus of History. Wood wrote the original version of "Black Majority" as his PhD dissertation at Harvard University, which was published in 1974. The collection holds correspondence regarding the book publication; thesis abstract, and full typed written manuscript of "Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion."

Extent: 0.5 linear foot(1 archival box)

Repository: Avery Research Center

Call Number: AMN 1131

Language of Material: Material in English

Biographical Note

Peter Hutchins Wood (1943-), the son of Barry and Mary Lee Wood, grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and Baltimore, Maryland. Wood was educated at the Gilman School in Baltimore, receiving his scholarly training at Harvard University (Boston, Massachusetts), and at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar in 1964. He returned to Harvard to obtain his Ph.D. in history.

Wood wrote the original version of "Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion," as his PhD dissertation, which was published in 1974. In demonstrating that Africans contributed their advanced knowledge and skills to the building of America, and not solely by their physical labor, Wood established a new tone in Southern historiography and widen the area of study. Black Majority... has been in print since it's first publication and gave rise to a tradition of scholarship on African roots of rice cultivation in colonial America. The book has influenced the writings of other scholars, including Daniel C. Littlefield's Rice and Slaves, Charles Joyner's Down by the Riverside, Amelia Vernon's African American at Mars Bluff, South Carolina, Julia Floyd Smith's Slavery and Rice Culture in Low Country Georgia, Judith A. Carney's Black Rice, and Edda Fields-Black Deep Roots.

Wood was a Humanities Officer for the Rockefeller Foundation before teaching Colonial American history at Duke University from 1975 to 2008 where was named Professor Emeritus of History. Professor Wood was a Guggenheim Fellow, an Andrew Mellon Senior Scholar, and a elected member of the Harvard Board of Overseers. He has received the American Historical Association's Asher Distinguished Teaching Award.
In addition to writing *Black Majority* and *Strange New Land*, Wood has also co-authored, *Created Equal*, a United States survey text. In 1988, Wood worked with art scholar, Karen Dalton on the book and exhibition, *Winslow Homer's Images of Blacks: The Civil War and Reconstruction Years*. Based on his 2009 Huggins Lectures at Harvard University, Woods wrote *Near Andersonville: Winslow Homer's Civil War*.


**Collection Overview**

The collection is divided into two series:

1. **Correspondence** contains letters between Wood and fellow historian St. Julien R. Childs regarding the chapter review and comments of Woods proposed book.

2. **Literary Productions: Essays and Manuscripts** includes thesis abstract and full typed written manuscript of "Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion." Also includes Wood's 1964 journal essay regarding disease in colonial New England.

**Collection Arrangement**

1. Correspondence, 1973 and undated


**Restrictions**

**Access Restrictions**

No restrictions

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**Related Material**


**Subject Headings**

Childs, St. Julien Ravenel, 1897-1983

Wood, Peter H., 1943-
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Peter H. Wood Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Papers donated by Peter H. Woods

Processing Information

Processed by Georgette Mayo, May 2014
Edited by Aaron Spelbring, May 2014
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Series 1: Correspondence, 1973 and undated

Contains letters written by and to Woods regarding the publication of his book, "Black Majority."

Box 1 Folder 1
Letters, 1973

Contains correspondence between Wood and fellow historian St. Julien R. Childs regarding the chapter review and comments of Wood's proposed book.

Series 2: Literary Productions: Essays and Manuscripts, 1964, 1974

Contains thesis abstract, and full typed written manuscript of "Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion." Also, includes Wood's 1964 journal essay regarding disease in colonial New England

2.1: Essays, 1964-1974

Box 1 Folder 2


2.2: Manuscript: "Black Majority: Negroes in Colonial South Carolina from 1670 through the Stono Rebellion.", 1964

Typed manuscript, organized by chapters. Includes footnotes at the end of each chapter. *Note: Some pages are missing in chapters.

Box 1 Folder 3
Introduction, 1974

Includes title page, table of contents and end of chapter footnotes

Box 1 Folder 4
Prologue: "Small Beginnings", 1974

*Note: Pages 8-9 are missing

Box 1 Folder 5

Includes Chapter I: The Colony of a Colony

Box 1 Folder 6
Chapter II: "Black Labor-White Rice", 1974

Box 1 Folder 7
Chapter III: "The Soveraign Ray of Health", 1974

Box 1 Folder 8

*Note: Pages 10-18 are missing

Box 1 Folder 9
Chapter VI: "Gullah Speech: The Roots of Black English", 1974

Box 1 Folder 10
Part Three: "Rising Tensions", 1974

Includes Chapter VII: "Growing Initiative Among Blacks"

Box 1 Folder 11
Chapter VIII: "Mounting Anxiety Among Whites", 1974
Box 1 Folder 12  Chapter IX: "Runaways: Slaves Who Stole Themselves", 1974
Box 1 Folder 13  Part Four: "A Colony In Conflict", 1974
   Includes Chapter X: "Patterns Of White Control"
Box 1 Folder 14  Chapter XI: "Patterns Of Black Resistance", 1974
Box 1 Folder 15  Chapter XII: "The Stono Rebellion And Its Consequences", 1974