

African American Children photographs

Collection of African American Children photographs
c. 1950s-1990s

Title Statement

African American Children photographs African American Children photographs MSS 16798

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 16798

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1555

Unit Date

c. 1950s-1990s

Language

English

source

Max Rambod

Extent

0.06 Cubic Feet 2 letter size folders

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Max Rambod Inc. by the Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library on 01 March 2023.

Preferred Citation

MSS 16798, Collection of African American Children photographs, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia Library.

Biographical / Historical

These photographs show Black children enjoying childhood, posing beside Christmas trees and held fast in the arms of their grandmothers. Black joy is a phrase used by historians to highlight the positive aspects of Black history separate from its suffering. Representations of African Americans living lives at once ordinary and inspired, both deeply personal and universal, is an integral piece of any American history archive. "Expressions and acts of Black joy are often encouraged as a way for Black people to fully be themselves and form a sense of community as a response to systems that devalue them and stifle their self-expression. In this way, engaging in and sharing experiences of Black joy are seen not as ways of ignoring oppression but as acts of resistance against it."

Content Description

This collection contains ninety-eight photographs of African American children and families at home and play from about the 1950s to the 1990s. Measurements range from 6" X 4" to 2" X 2" inches and are in color and black and white. Several subjects recur throughout the archive. All are unidentified; only three have any annotations on the back. The photographed figures, primarily children but some family shots included, are captured within their homes or playing outside. Activities include playing, swimming, posing, and celebrating holidays and special occasions.

Keywords

African American families

African Americans -- Photographs

African American children

Max Rambod