Summary

Creator: Ames, Wilmer

Title: Wilmer Ames Papers


Size: 7.67 linear feet (23 archival boxes)


Abstract: Born in 1950 in Nassawadox, Virginia, Wilmer Ames was best known as the founder and editor-in-chief of Emerge, a monthly newsmagazine which addressed social, political, and economic issues from a black perspective. Ames received his BA from Lincoln University and his MA from Columbia University's School of Journalism. He studied medicine at Rutgers University for two years before returning to journalism. Ames also worked as a reporter and freelancer for a number of publications before he founded Emerge, including Time, Sports Illustrated, People, GQ, and New York magazines. Emerge targeted upwardly mobile blacks and covered popular news stories of the day, as well as in-depth portraits of leading figures in the 1990s such as Louis Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson, and Clarence Thomas. The collection contains biographical information on Ames; published articles and research materials for Time and Sports Illustrated; typescripts for a pilot television series; personal and professional correspondence with editors; reviews; and a manuscript for the book Chuck Norris: Being Physically and Mentally Fit (which he co-authored). The bulk of the collection concerns the formation and development of Emerge. Found here are board minutes and memoranda, detailed plans, proposals, financial records, advertising and marketing plans, and articles submitted to and published in the magazine.

Preferred citation: [Item], Wilmer Ames Papers, Sc MG 476, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English


Creator History
Born in 1950 in Nassawadox, Virginia, Wilmer Ames was best known as the founder and editor-in-chief of *Emerge*, a monthly newsmagazine which addressed social, political, and economic issues from a black perspective. Ames received his BA from Lincoln University and his MA from Columbia University's School of Journalism. He studied medicine at Rutgers University for two years before returning to journalism. Ames also worked as a reporter and freelancer for a number of publications before he founded *Emerge*, including *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, *GQ*, and *New York* magazines. *Emerge* targeted upwardly mobile blacks and covered popular news stories of the day, as well as in-depth portraits of leading figures in the 1990s such as Louis Farrakhan, Jesse Jackson, and Clarence Thomas.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains biographical information on Ames; published articles and research materials for *Time* and *Sports Illustrated*; typescripts for a pilot television series; personal and professional correspondence with editors; reviews; and a manuscript for the book *Chuck Norris: Being Physically and Mentally Fit* (which he co-authored). The bulk of the collection concerns the formation and development of *Emerge*. Found here are board minutes and memoranda, detailed plans, proposals, financial records, advertising and marketing plans, and articles submitted to and published in the magazine.

**Arrangement:** Arranged into two series: (1) Wilmer Ames and (2) Emerge Newsmagazine.

**Key Terms**

**Names**

Ames, Wilmer
Container List

Wilmer Ames

b. 1  Biographical information
    Writing
    b. 1  A-E
    b. 2  E-L
    b. 3  L-P
    b. 4  S-W
    b. 5  Series treatments
    b. 6  Speeches
    b. 6  *Chuck Norris: Being Physically and Mentally Fit manuscript*
    b. 7  Miscellaneous
    b. 8  *Apollo Magazine files*
    b. 9  Correspondence 1977 - 1986
        *Emerge Newsmagazine*
    b. 10  Certificates of Incorporation
    b. 11  Board records
        Correspondence
    b. 12  1985 - 1989
    b. 14  1991 - 1993
    b. 15-19  Proposals
    b. 20  Financial material and demographic statistics
    b. 21  
    b. 22  Advertising, publicity, and marketing