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### Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title:</strong></th>
<th>Robert Masters Collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates:</strong></td>
<td>1963-1967 (bulk 1964)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent:</strong></td>
<td>2 boxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language:</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator:</strong></td>
<td>Masters, Robert</td>
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**Abstract:**
Robert Masters graduated from Queens College in 1966; at age 20 he spent seven weeks in Greenwood, Mississippi as a volunteer in the Freedom Summer of 1964. The collection includes newspaper and magazine articles, color snapshots, letters in which Masters describes his work in Greenwood, and artifacts.

**Source:**
Donated by Robert Masters in 2010.

**Access:**
Collection is open for research. Staff may restrict access at its discretion on the basis of physical condition.

**Copyright:**
The Robert Masters Collection is the property of the Queens College Libraries. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assignees. The collection is subject to all copyright laws. Queens College assumes no responsibility for the infringement of copyrights held by the original authors, creators, or producers of materials.

**Preferred Citation:**
item, date (if known), box number, folder number, Robert Masters Collection, Department of Special Collections and Archives, Queens College, City University of New York.

**Special Formats:**
Artifacts—automobile license plate; sweatshirt.

**Related Collections:**
- George Albertz Collection, Queens College, NY
- Mark Levy Collection, Queens College, NY
**Sid Simon Collection**, Queens College, NY

### Controlled Access Terms

#### Organizations:
- Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
- Queens College (New York, NY)

#### Places:
- Greenwood (Miss.)
- Tougaloo (Miss.)

#### Subjects:
- Mississippi Freedom Project
- Voter Registration
Biographical Note

Robert Masters was born in 1944 and grew up in Long Island. He enrolled at Queens College in 1963, and graduated with a degree in psychology in 1966. At age 20 he spent seven weeks in Greenwood, Mississippi as a volunteer in the Freedom Summer of 1964. As a volunteer he canvassed door-to-door on behalf of the new Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), enlisting support among the African American community for the party’s challenge to the established, all white-delegation at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City. During his time in Greenwood, Masters was arrested twice and spent time in jail for his organizing activities.

After graduation, Masters joined the Peace Corps, working in West Africa from 1966-1970. He went on to study law and obtained his JD from NYU Law School in 1973. Currently Masters serves as Senior Vice President and General Counsel at Acadia Realty Trust in White Plains, NY.

Scope & Content Note

The Robert Masters collection is comprised of letters, printed material, photographs, and artifacts that document his experiences as a volunteer working for racial equality in Mississippi in the mid-1960s. As a volunteer during the Mississippi Summer Project (Freedom Summer) in 1964, he canvassed door-to-door in Greenwood, Mississippi, soliciting support for the nascent Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party. In 1965, as president of Queens College’s Mississippi Freedom Project, he returned to the state for a 12-day church rebuilding project in Tougaloo. The collection includes letters in which Masters discusses the importance of the Freedom Summer; printed material including newspaper interviews with Masters and news stories relating to the civil rights struggle in Mississippi; color photographs; an automobile license plate; and a “Freedom Now” sweatshirt that was used for fundraising.
Arrangement Note

Series I: Correspondence

Series II: Printed Material

Series III: Photographs

Series IV: Artifacts

Note: Items in this collection were originally in a photo album. For preservation, items were removed and housed in acid-free folders. Where removal could not be safely achieved, the album pages have been scanned and printed for access.

Series Description & Container List

Series I: Correspondence
This series is comprised of three letters and a postcard. Masters discusses his work canvassing for the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party and analyzes the possible political future of the state’s African-American population.

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<tbody>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
<td>1964</td>
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</table>

Series II Printed Material
This series includes newspaper and magazine clippings that highlight Masters’ experiences in Mississippi, as well as articles about the civil rights struggles in the state. Due to their delicate condition, some of the original clippings have been restricted with preservation copies provided for access.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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Series III Photographs
This series includes color photographs taken in Greenwood in 1964.

<table>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Photographs</td>
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</table>

Series IV Artifacts
This series is comprised of two items. The first is a 1964 Mississippi automobile license plate from Leflore County, likely from the car of a SNCC organizer. The second is a sweatshirt circa 1970 which says FREEDOM NOW. Masters helped sell such sweatshirts to raise money for civil rights activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>License Plate</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sweatshirt</td>
<td>circa 1970</td>
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</table>