



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Anna Arnold Hedgeman papers**

1953 - 1983

Sc MG 123

This finding aid was prepared as part of a pilot archival processing project based on "Mapping the Stacks: A Guide to Black Chicago's Hidden Archives" ([mts.lib.uchicago.edu](http://mts.lib.uchicago.edu)). The necessary funding, graduate student staff, and archival training were arranged through support of New York University's Department of English, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center in Research in Black Culture. Processed by Matthew Bruen, Jane Carr, and Laura Helton in 2009.

## Summary

**Creator:** Hedgeman, Anna Arnold, 1899-1990

**Title:** Anna Arnold Hedgeman papers

**Date:** 1953 - 1983

**Size:** 7 linear feet (12 archival boxes; 1 1/2 archival box; 2 record cartons; 1 volume)

**Source:** Gift of Anna Arnold Hedgeman in 1979 and 1981.

**Abstract:** The Anna Arnold Hedgeman papers document the second half of Hedgeman's career in governmental, religious, civil rights, and educational organizations from the 1950s through the early 1980s.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Anna Arnold Hedgeman papers, Sc MG 123, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** This finding aid was prepared as part of a pilot archival processing project based on "Mapping the Stacks: A Guide to Black Chicago's Hidden Archives" ([mts.lib.uchicago.edu](http://mts.lib.uchicago.edu)). The necessary funding, graduate student staff, and archival training were arranged through support of New York University's Department of English, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center in Research in Black Culture. Processed by Matthew Bruen, Jane Carr, and Laura Helton in 2009.

## Creator History

Anna Arnold Hedgeman (1899-1990) spent more than six decades working in the fields of interfaith and civil rights organizing, government service, and urban affairs. The author of two memoirs, *The Trumpet Sounds* (Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964) and *The Gift of Chaos* (Oxford, 1977), Hedgeman was a pioneer in opening civil service and political jobs to African-American women.

Raised in Minnesota, Hedgeman was the first African-American graduate of Hamline University in St. Paul. From 1924 to 1933, she served as an administrator for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Ohio, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, including five years as membership secretary of the Harlem branch. She married musician Merritt Hedgeman in 1933.

During the New Deal and early years of World War II, Hedgeman worked for the Emergency Relief Bureau, worked as a consultant on racial problems for New York City, and monitored race relations for the Federal Office of Civilian Defense. In 1944, the Hedgemans relocated to Washington, D.C., where she became executive director of A. Philip Randolph's National Council for a Permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission. After working on Harry Truman's presidential election in 1948, Hedgeman was appointed to an administrative position in the Federal Security Agency.

From 1954 to 1958, Hedgeman was a mayoral aide in the cabinet of Robert F. Wagner, Jr. As was often the case throughout her career, Hedgeman was the first African-American woman appointed to this post. From 1958 to 1962, she worked briefly in business and also covered civic and international affairs as a radio commentator and *New York Age* columnist.

In the 1960s, Hedgeman was at the center of national civil rights organizing and was the first female member on the administrative planning committee for the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Returning to ecumenical work from 1963 to 1967, Hedgeman served in several capacities for the National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race, where she coordinated efforts of clergy and lay leaders to win passage and ensure implementation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Hedgeman started a consulting service and throughout the 1970s worked as a freelance specialist on interfaith activism, urban affairs, and black studies. She also continued her commitment to public service as a member of countless community committees and government advisory bodies until her death in 1990.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Anna Arnold Hedgeman papers document the second half of Hedgeman's career in governmental, religious, civil rights, and educational organizations from the 1950s through the early 1980s. The collection consists largely of manuscripts, correspondence, and printed material. It covers the second half of Hedgeman's career beginning with her tenure as a mayoral aide in 1953, and continuing through her consulting work in the 1970s. The Personal/Biographical series includes family correspondence, biographical sketches and resumes, and information on Hedgeman's awards and honorary degrees. In addition, the series has a small amount of information regarding Hedgeman's husband Merritt, a successful musician. The Correspondence series contains incoming and outgoing letters covering twenty-eight years of Hedgeman's career from 1955 to 1982. It includes correspondence of a general nature and correspondence from Hedgeman's work as a freelance consultant. Other correspondence generated as part of Hedgeman's official duties on behalf of the organizations that employed her is contained in the Mayoral Aide, Organizations, and Government Service series. Correspondence pertaining to Hedgeman's speaking engagements as a freelance consultant or the publication of her writings is included in the Speaking Engagements and Writings series. The Mayoral Aide series documents Hedgeman's work as an aide to Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr. from 1954 to 1958 and contains a limited amount of correspondence and printed material pertaining to racial discrimination within city agencies, Hedgeman's visits to school groups, and her trip to the Middle East in 1956. The largest and most substantive series, Organizations, is divided into three subseries: Religious, Education, and Community. The Religious subseries contains correspondence, minutes, legislative

material, and internal office memoranda pertaining to Hedgeman's time with the National Council of Churches. It also contains research materials and printed matter collected by Hedgeman related to her interest in interfaith activism. The Education subseries contains correspondence, minutes, and printed material from 1963 to 1980 dealing with Hedgeman's consulting work on behalf of several universities, colleges, and school districts where she helped develop curricula and policies for minority students. The Community subseries consists of correspondence and printed matter from 1957 to 1983 on Hedgeman's voluntary service as a board member or committee member of numerous organizations, particularly the National Association of Black Professional Women in Higher Education and Harlem Hospital Center. The Government Service series consists primarily of printed material pertaining to federal, state, and local governmental bodies for which Hedgeman served as advisory committee member in the 1960s and 1970s. The bulk of material relates to the National Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitation and the New York City Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, but it does not directly document Hedgeman's involvement. Also included in this series are three small files on Hedgeman's participation in White House meetings and conferences. The Speaking Engagements and Writings series relates to Hedgeman's journalism, autobiographies, and speeches between 1954 and 1982. It includes annotated typescripts of significant speeches such as Hedgeman's address to the Conference of Women of African and African Descent in Ghana in 1960. A large portion of the series covers the publication and promotion of Hedgeman's two memoirs, *The Trumpet Sounds* (1964) and *The Gift of Chaos* (1973). It also contains research materials, drafts, and clippings of Hedgeman's articles for the *New York Age* where she was a columnist and the associate editor, as well as clippings from miscellaneous African-American periodicals and peace advocacy publications during the 1950s. Her clippings from the *New York Age* primarily report on Hedgeman's trips abroad and profile community leaders in Harlem. The series concludes with an assortment of short handwritten and typed documents that appear to have been unpublished during Hedgeman's lifetime. The Scrapbook Files series consists of newspaper clippings, leaflets, and pamphlets that Hedgeman compiled into four scrapbooks covering religion, civil rights, feminism, Black-Jewish relations, and labor.

**Arrangement:** Arranged: I. Personal/Biographical; II. Correspondence; III. Mayoral Aide; IV. Organizations; V. Government Service; VI. Speaking Engagements and Writings; VII. Scrapbook Files

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American authors  
African American women civil rights workers  
African American women political activists  
African Americans -- Civil rights  
African Americans -- Education  
African Americans -- Religion  
Black author  
Civil rights -- United States  
Racism -- United States

### Geographic Names

United States -- Race relations  
United States -- Social conditions -- 1960-1980

### Names

Hedgeman, Anna Arnold, 1899-1990  
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America  
New York (N.Y.). Office of the Mayor

United Methodist Church (U.S.). Commission on Religion and Race

## Container List

### Personal/biographical papers

- b. 1 f. 1 Resumes and biographies 1960s - 1980s
- b. 1 f. 2 Personal correspondence 1957 - 1968
- b. 1 f. 3 Personal correspondence 1970 - 1980
- b. 1 f. 4 Schlesinger Library Black Women Oral History Project correspondence and agreements 1980
- b. 1 f. 5 Personal correspondence undated
- b. 1 f. 6 Congressional campaign 1960
- b. 1 f. 7 Council President campaign 1965
- b. 1 f. 8 Articles about Hedgeman 1953 - 1980
- b. 1 f. 9 Notes undated
- b. 1 f. 10 Hedgeman and Arnold family materials 1965 - 1980
- b. 1 f. 11 Honors and awards 1964 - 1980
- b. 1 f. 12 Dowling College Honorary Degree 1978
- b. 1 f. 13 Hamline University alumni publications 1977 - 1979
- b. 1 f. 14 Phi Beta Kappa election 1977
- b. 1 f. 15 Programs and invitations 1955 - 1981

### Correspondence

- b. 2 f. 1 American Foundation for Negro Affairs 1968
- b. 2 f. 2 Black Methodists for Church Renewal 1972 - 1976
- b. 2 f. 3 Black People's Unity Movement (Camden, NJ) 1968
- b. 2 f. 4 Board of Education (New York City) 1962 - 1973
- b. 2 f. 5 Carroll, Diahann 1965
- b. 2 f. 6 Center for Urban Education (Chicago) 1967
- b. 2 f. 7 Fuller, S. B 1959
- b. 2 f. 8 Hamilton Hill "Drop-in" Arts and Crafts Center 1977 - 1979
- b. 2 f. 9 Hamline University 1958 - 1977
- b. 2 f. 10 Holden, Matthew Jr 1968
- b. 2 f. 11 Javits, Jacob K 1959
- b. 2 f. 12 King, Coretta Scott 1968
- b. 2 f. 13 Rockefeller, Nelson 1968
- b. 2 f. 14 Roosevelt, Eleanor 1958
- b. 2 f. 15 Smith, Lillian 1963
- b. 2 f. 16 1955 - 1958
- b. 2 f. 17 1959 - 1961
- b. 2 f. 18 1962 - 1965
- b. 2 f. 19 1966 - 1967
- b. 2 f. 20 1968
- b. 2 f. 21 1969
- b. 2 f. 22 1970 - 1972

Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 23 1973 - 1976
- b. 3 f. 1 1977 - 1978
- b. 3 f. 2 1979 - 1982
- b. 3 f. 3 undated

Mayoral Aide

Correspondence

- b. 3 f. 4 1954 - 1958
- b. 3 f. 5 American Christian Palestine Committee 1956
- b. 3 f. 6 *Bethune, Mary McLeod. Light in the Southern Sky* 1958
- b. 3 f. 7 Racial discrimination in city agencies 1957 - 1958
- b. 3 f. 8 Wadleigh Junior High thank you notes 1958
- b. 3 f. 9 Air pollution control 1954
- b. 3 f. 10 Baptist Ministers' Conference, Housing Committee statement 1956
- b. 3 f. 11 Department of Welfare 1953
- b. 3 f. 12 Huntingdon Community Center reports 1953 - 1954
- b. 3 f. 13 Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Aged 1953 - 1956
- b. 3 f. 14 Mayor's message on executive budget 1957
- b. 3 f. 15 Mayor's office roster 1957
- b. 3 f. 16 New York State Commission Against Discrimination 1957 - 1958
- b. 4 f. 1 Wagner, Robert speech 1957
- b. 4 f. 2 Women United for Civic Action report, "State of Negroes in the NYC Police Department" 1958

Organizations

Religious

- b. 4 f. 3 Correspondence with churches as consultant 1968 - 1972
  - b. 4 f. 4 American Missionary Association 1961
  - b. 4 f. 5 Board of Missions of Methodist Church 1965 - 1968
  - b. 4 f. 6 Catholic-Protestant Working Party on Human Rights 1967
  - b. 4 f. 7 General Board of Social Concerns, the Methodist Church, Steering Committee 1967
  - b. 4 f. 8-10 General Board of Christian Social Concerns, the Methodist Church, conference report 1968
  - b. 4 f. 11 Jewish interfaith and civil rights organizations 1967 - 1968  
Includes speaking engagement material and publications.
  - b. 4 f. 12 National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, Mathew Ahmann, Catholic Interracial Council 1958 - 1963
  - b. 4 f. 13 National Committee of Negro Churchmen, Executive Committees - Black Clergy Summit 1966 - 1968
- National Conference on Christians and Jews
- b. 4 f. 14 Correspondence 1964
  - b. 4 f. 15 Board of Directors, New York region 1958 - 1978
  - b. 4 f. 16 Committee on Women's Concerns 1978
  - b. 4 f. 17 International Year of the Child 1979

Organizations (cont.)

Religious (cont.)

National Conference on Christians and Jews (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 18 Publications 1967 - 1978
- National Council of Churches
  - b. 5 f. 1 Civil rights and legislative material 1963 - 1965
  - b. 5 f. 2 Newsletters 1958 - 1968
  - Commission on Religion and Race
    - b. 5 f. 3 Reports 1963 - 1965
    - b. 5 f. 4 Internal correspondence and minutes 1964 - 1966
    - b. 5 f. 5 Community and human rights organizations 1964 - 1966
  - b. 5 f. 6-9 Speaking engagements 1963 - 1967
    - Includes speaking engagements with schools, churches, and religious organizations and declined invitations.
- b. 5 f. 10-11 Department of Social Justice 1966 -1967
  - Includes correspondence about speaking engagements, general correspondence, and reports.
  - b. 6 f. 1 Division of Christian Life and Mission 1965 - 1967
    - Includes correspondence and minutes.
  - b. 6 f. 2 Commission for Special Resources 1966
  - b. 6 f. 3 Resolutions 1967
  - b. 6 f. 4 25th anniversary 1975
  - b. 6 f. 5 New York City Mission Society, Minisink Women's Association Luncheon 1971 - 1972
  - b. 6 f. 6 United Church Women reports 1965
  - Miscellaneous organizations
    - b. 6 f. 7 Statements of purpose and constitutions 1967
    - b. 6 f. 8 Newsletters 1965 - 1972
  - Research material
    - b. 6 f. 9 African-American religion and social justice 1964 - 1971
    - b. 6 f. 10 Interfaith (Catholic) 1963
    - b. 6 f. 11 Interfaith (Muslim) 1976
    - b. 6 f. 12 National Catholic Welfare Conference 1959 - 1963
- Education
  - b. 7 f. 1 Ad-Hoc Committee on Urban Studies, Detroit 1967 - 1969
  - b. 7 f. 2 Alpha Kappa Alpha, Tau Omega Chapter 1966
  - b. 7 f. 3 Black Librarians of Queens, Inc 1974
  - b. 7 f. 4-5 City College (CUNY) School of Education, Committee on Directions 1970 - 1971
    - Includes minutes.
  - b. 7 f. 6 Community School District 9, Bronx 1971 - 1973
  - b. 7 f. 7 Conferences 1974 - 1978
  - b. 7 f. 8 Manhattanville College, Afro-American Studies 1969 - 1970
  - b. 7 f. 9-10 National Association of Black Professional Women in Higher Education 1976 - 1977
    - Includes correspondence of the Interim Governance Board.
  - b. 7 f. 11 New York University 1969

Organizations (cont.)

Education (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 12 Princeton Theological Seminary 1979 - 1980  
Research materials
- b. 7 f. 13 Negro history and black studies 1964 - 1979
- b. 7 f. 14 Desegregation 1963 - 1964
- b. 7 f. 15 Education reform 1967 - 1973
- b. 7 f. 16 On-the-job training 1967
- b. 8 f. 1 Youth transition from school to work 1970s  
Rockland County
- b. 8 f. 2 Ad-Hoc Citizens Committee - East Ramapo Central School District 1976
- b. 8 f. 3 Inter-Group Relations Committee 1969
- b. 8 f. 4-5 Ramapo Central School District long range plan 1967  
Community
- b. 8 f. 6 Ad Hoc Committee for the Schomburg Collection 1972
- b. 8 f. 7 Ad Hoc Committee on South Africa 1959
- b. 8 f. 8 Childcare Center (formerly Tuberculosis Preventorium for Children) 1966 - 1967
- b. 8 f. 9 Community Council of Greater New York 1957 - 1959
- b. 8 f. 10 Community League of W. 159th Street 1967
- b. 8 f. 11 Community Service Society, Committee on Family and Child Welfare 1963
- b. 8 f. 12 Federation of Negro Civil Service Organizations 1969 - 1981
- b. 8 f. 13 Greater New York Foster Care Committee 1958
- b. 9 f. 1 Greater New York Fund - Committee on Fund Distribution 1963  
Harlem Hospital Center
- b. 9 f. 2 1980 - 1981
- b. 9 f. 3 Ad-Hoc Community Board Planning Committee 1970 - 1971
- b. 9 f. 4 Executive Director Search Committee 1972 - 1973
- b. 9 f. 5 Mini-Committee to Review Hospital Conditions 1972
- b. 9 f. 6 Minutes 1972
- b. 9 f. 7 General 1975
- v. 1 Policy and procedure manual
- b. 9 f. 8 Harlem organizations 1958 - 1979
- b. 9 f. 9 Harlem Parents Committee proposal for cultural center 1966 - 1967
- b. 9 f. 10 Harlem Steering Committee on Common Issues 1979 - 1980
- b. 9 f. 11 National Council on Crime and Delinquency - Harlem Institute on Crime Prevention 1961 - 1972
- b. 9 f. 12 National Sharecroppers Fund 1972
- b. 9 f. 13 National Social Welfare Assembly, Committee on International Social Welfare 1957 - 1958
- b. 9 f. 14 Research material on African-American history and leadership 1977 - 1980
- b. 10 f. 1-2 Schomburg Committee of Five 1979 - 1985  
Also known as the Community Committee for Collection, Management and Development-Black Culture. Includes notes and background material.
- b. 10 f. 3 Urban Coalition 1967



Organizations (cont.)

Community (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 4 United Seamen's Service 1969 - 1979
- Government service
- b. 11 f. 1 Mayor's Advisory Committee for the Board of Higher Education 1968  
New York City Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation  
Services  
Advisory Board
- b. 11 f. 2 Correspondence 1975 - 1978
- b. 11 f. 3-4 Minutes 1976 - 1978
- b. 11 f. 5 Legislative Committee 1976 - 1978
- b. 11 f. 6 Urban Crisis Committee 1976 - 1978
- b. 11 f. 7-9 Advisory Council on Alcoholism 1975 - 1980  
Includes correspondence and minutes.
- b. 11 f. 10 Annual plan 1973 - 1974
- b. 11 f. 11 Action Task Force on Community Residences and Rehabilitation Services  
report 1974
- b. 11 f. 12 Background material on alcoholism 1974 - 1976
- b. 11 f. 13 Community mental health needs 1976 - 1981
- b. 11 f. 14 Deinstitutionalization 1977 - 1978
- b. 11 f. 15 Impact of fiscal crisis 1975 - 1976
- b. 11 f. 16 Plan 1976 - 1980
- b. 11 f. 17 Reports and testimony 1977 - 1978
- b. 11 f. 18 Task Force on Community Residences and Rehabilitation Services report  
1976
- b. 11 f. 19 New York State Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse five-year  
comprehensive plan 1979 - 1984
- b. 12 f. 1-2 Governor's Committee to Review New York Laws and Procedures in the  
Area of Human Rights 1968
- b. 12 f. 3 New York City Office for the Aging, Advisory Council 1973 - 1981  
U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW), National  
Advisory Council on Vocational Rehabilitation
- b. 12 f. 4-6 Meeting Book I 1964
- b. 12 f. 7-8 Meeting Book III 1964
- b. 12 f. 9-10 Meeting Book V 1964
- b. 12 f. 11 Report on project earning power 1967
- b. 12 f. 12-13 Summary book 1965
- b. 12 f. 14-16 Rehabilitation Research and Training Center progress reports 1964 - 1966
- b. 12 f. 17-18 Rehabilitation Research and Training Center proposals 1964 - 1966  
Includes proposal to Duke University.
- b. 12 f. 19 White House conference on international cooperation 1965
- b. 12 f. 20 White House conference, "To Fulfill these Rights", planning session and  
strategy 1965 - 1966
- b. 12 f. 21 Women's Committee for the New Frontiers with First Lady Jacqueline  
Kennedy 1960

Government service (cont.)

- b. 12 f. 22 World Conference of the United Nations Decade for Women seminar on women and political participation 1979

Writings and speaking engagements

- b. 13 f. 1 Printed addresses 1956 - 1979
- Programs
- b. 13 f. 2 African-American community speaking engagements 1956 - 1980
- b. 13 f. 3 Church-affiliated speaking engagements 1968 - 1980
- b. 13 f. 4 School-affiliated speaking engagements 1960 - 1981
- b. 13 f. 5 Speaking engagements with churches, correspondence 1959 - 1960
- b. 13 f. 6 Speeches and public addresses - manuscripts 1960 - 1982
- b. 13 f. 7 *American Unity clippings* 1954 - 1956
- The Gift of Chaos*
- b. 13 f. 8 Index and correspondence 1977
- b. 13 f. 9 Promotion and advertising 1977 - 1979
- b. 14 f. 1 Partial manuscript 1977
- New York Age*
- b. 14 f. 2-3 Feature articles, research, drafts, and clippings 1958 - 1959
- b. 14 f. 4 "One Woman's Opinion" manuscripts and clippings 1958 - 1959
- b. 14 f. 5 Miscellaneous publications - clippings 1954 - 1979
- The Trumpet Sounds*
- b. 14 f. 6-8 Annotated manuscript 1963 - 1964
- b. 15 f. 1 Master proof 1964
- b. 15 f. 2 Correspondence with publisher 1964 - 1966
- b. 15 f. 3 Promotion and advertising 1964 - 1967
- b. 15 f. 4 Unpublished writing 1981
- Scrapbooks
- b. 15 f. 5 1967 - 1980  
Covers the following topics: Black-Jewish relations, education, crime and violence, and religion and politics.
- b. 15 f. 6 1961 - 1979  
Covers the following topics: civil rights, labor rights, brotherhood, racism, and feminism.
- b. 15 f. 7 Religion I 1974 - 1979
- b. 15 f. 8 Religion II 1967 - 1979