

Black and Brown Trading Stamp Albums

Black and Brown Trading Stamp Albums
circa 1969

Title Statement

Black and Brown Trading Stamp Albums Black and Brown Trading Stamp Albums MSS.16479

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Publication Statement

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:40:11 +0000.

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

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.16479

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

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[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/1039

Unit Date

circa 1969

Language

English

source

Derringer Books

Extent

0.13 Cubic Feet This collection contains 2 letter folders.

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased by the University of Virginia Special Collections Library on December 4, 2019.

Preferred Citation

Black and Brown Trading Stamp Albums, MSS 16479, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

The Black and Brown Trading Stamp Corporation was founded by former professional football wide receiver Arthur Louise Powell (1937-2015) of the Oakland Raiders, Buffalo Bills and the New York Titans. He also played for the Minnesota Vikings and the Philadelphia Eagles.

His goal for establishing the corporation was to increase patronage to black owned businesses in downtown Oakland, California, and promote pride by featuring Black icons.

The first and only icon featured on the stamps was James Brown, who put up most of the money to start the company. A full book of fifty pages was worth the equivalent of three dollars in merchandise.

Instead of redeeming the booklets at a redemption center, Powell's idea was for the customer to be able to redeem the stamps at the business where they were received for extra merchandise. It included around a thousand merchants across California and generated over one million dollars in revenue during the first year.

Content Description

This collection contains three empty Black and Brown trading stamp albums, and two filled Black and Brown trading stamp albums. Also included are approximately 75-100 unattached twenty-five cent Black and Brown stamps featuring James Brown.

Keywords

African American business enterprises
Trading-stamps
Arthur Louis Powell, 1937-2015
Derringer Books
Brown, James, 1933-2006

Description of Subordinate Components

Black and Brown Trading Stamp Albums, with stamps glued in

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221351

Unit Date circa 1969

Mixed Materials BW 48 (box)

Container 1/2 (folder)

Extent 1 folder(s)

Black and Brown Trading Stamp Albums, 3 blank albums with loose stamps

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID [Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/221352

Unit Date circa 1969

Mixed Materials BW 48 (box)

Container 2/2 (folder)

Extent 1 folder(s)