



Smithsonian

Anacostia Community Museum

Finding Aid to the Institute on Race Relations records, circa 1943-1951, in the Anacostia Community Museum Archives

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2014

Anacostia Community Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Anacostia Community Museum Archives
Title:	Institute on Race Relations Records
Date:	circa 1943-1951
Identifier:	ACMA.06-077
Extent:	0.03 Linear feet ((1 box))
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection, which dates from 1943 to 1951 and measures .03 linear feet, documents the inner workings of the Institute on Race Relations. The collection is comprised of newsletters, meeting minutes, advertisements and professional correspondence.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This material was donated to the Anacostia Community Museum on June 11, 1990 by Henry P. Whitehead.

Processing Information

Processed August 2014 by volunteer Bremacha La Guerre with the assistance of archivist Jennifer Morris.

Preferred Citation

Institute on Race Relations records, Anacostia Community Museum Archives, Smithsonian Institution, gift of Henry P. Whitehead.

Restrictions

Use of the materials requires an appointment. Please contact the archivist at acmarchives@si.edu.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

The Institute on Race relations existed from 1943-1951 in Washington, DC. It was created as a means to circumvent the rising tide of segregation and discrimination in America. Attacking discriminatory practices and Jim Crowism, members of the Institute advocated for education and non-violent demonstrations that incorporated interracial relationships in order to foster greater economic and political achievement in the

United States. Led by Tomlinson Todd, acting director of the Institute and creator of "Americans All" radio program, the Institute remained one of the most profound advocacy organization for change in 20th century America.

President-elect Tomlinson Todd fervently took up the cause of non-violent action by persuading members of the importance of education reform and on utilizing political empowerment strategies. Through the creation of his "Americans All" radio program, which aired in DC from 1946-1962, Todd had been able to foster a dialogue between people from various backgrounds and initiate the discussion concerning segregation and racial discrimination in America. By informing members on the significance of the theory of complete integration, he sought to shed light on the success of non-violent action, and to convince the American public of its importance in the fight against racial subordination. The Institute on Race Relations also focused on the equal treatment of African American soldiers in the U.S military. In locating areas where Black soldiers had been denied access, the Institute became a spokesperson for shedding light on their heroic deeds, and highlighted their contributions to the war effort.

Fighting for the rights of the underprivileged until his death in 1987, Tomlinson Todd became known as a civil rights agitator, and one of the great proponents of non-violent direct action. Mr. Todd was credited for discovering the lost laws of 1872 which had forbidden restaurants and entertainment industries from serving African Americans after the Civil War. In bringing these laws to the attention of the Corporation Counsel's office, Tomlinson Todd was able to reverse the practice, and to make discrimination against African Americans in public places a federal offense. His efforts led to the desegregation of restaurants that began to take place in the 1950s.

Tomlinson Todd, who suffered a heart attack in D.C. at the age of 76, was survived by no children.

Scope and Contents

The Institute on Race Relations records measure .03 linear feet and date from circa 1943 to 1951. The records contains clippings, correspondence, fliers, newsletters and pamphlets relating to or issued by the Institute on Race Relations. Some of the material was published in African-American newspapers, including the *Washington Afro* and the *Washington Star*.

Arrangement

The records are arranged into three Series:

Series 1: Correspondence, Series 2: Publicity and Series 3: Minutes.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Civil rights movements -- United States
Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)

Types of Materials:

Clippings
Correspondence
Fliers (printed matter)
Newsletters

Pamphlets

Names:

Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)

Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1944 - 1947

0.1 Linear feet

Language: English.
 Scope and Contents: This series consists of donation request to members of the Institute as well as pamphlets instructing members on the importance of getting involved with the Institute on Race Relations. A letter of invite to the Institute's monthly banquet along with the company letterhead is also included. This series is arranged chronologically.

Box 1, Folder 1 [acma-06-077-001: Americans All Radio Program Envelope , 1950](#)
 1 Envelope (9 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches)
 Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
 Topic: Envelopes (Stationery)
 Ethnic radio programs
 Place: Washington, D.C. -- history

Box 1, Folder 1 [acma_06-077-002: Institute on Race Relations Letterhead, 1940](#)
 1 Letter (Letterhead; 11 x 8 1/2 inches)
 Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
 Genre/Form: Letterheads
 Place: Washington, D.C. -- history
 Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)

Box 1, Folder 1 [acma-06-077-003: Free India Committee of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, 1944 January 20](#)
 1 Letter (11 x 8 1/2 inches)
 Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
 Genre/Form: Letters (correspondence)
 Place: Washington, D.C. -- history
 Topic: Race relations

Box 1, Folder 1 [acma-06-077-004: Letter to supporters from Tomlinson D. Todd, 1944 December](#)
 1 Letter (11 x 8 1/2 inches)
[Image\(s\): Letter](#)
 Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
 Place: Washington, D.C. -- history
 Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)
 Genre/Form: Letters (correspondence)

Box 1, Folder 1 [acma-09-077-005: Letter to supporters from Tomlinson D. Todd announcing anniversary of "Americans All" radio program, 1947 March 7](#)
 1 Letter (11 x 8 1/2 inches)
[Image\(s\): Letter from Tomlinson D. Todd](#)
 Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
 Place: Washington, D.C. -- history
 Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Letters (correspondence)

Box 1, Folder 1

acma-06-077-006: Invitation flyer to Monthly Banquet of the Institute on Race Relations, February 3

1 Document (11 x 8 1/2 inches)

[Image\(s\): Invitation Letter to Monthly Banquet of the Institute on Race Relations](#)

Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)

Genre/Form: Invitations

Fliers (printed matter)

Place: Washington, D.C. -- history

Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)

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Series 2: Publicity, 1945 - 1951

0.2 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains news clippings on the forgotten race laws of 1872 that Tomlinson Todd is credited with rediscovering in the 1940s, an article by Pearl S. Buck, an international humanitarian who fought for the cause of racial justice, and pamphlets that called for an end to discriminatory practices of American soldiers and citizens alike.

Box 1, Folder 2-3	News Clippings and Bulletins, 1944 - 1951
Box 1, Folder 3	<p>acma-06-077-007: Institute on Race Relations Progress Notes & Coming Events, 1944 January 1 Item (11 x 8 1/2 inches) Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.) Genre/Form: Newsletters Place: Washington, D.C. -- history Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)</p>
Box 1, Folder 3	<p>acma-06-077-009: Late News Bulletins, undated 1 Item (11 x 8 1/2 inches) Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.) Place: Washington, D.C. -- history Genre/Form: Newsletters Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)</p>
Box 1, Folder 3	<p>acma-06-077-010: Mass Meeting on Segregation Flyer, 1946 December 15 1 Item (11 x 8 1/2 inches) Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.) Genre/Form: Fliers (printed matter) Place: Washington, D.C. -- history Culture: Segregation Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)</p>

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Series 3: Minutes, 1949

0.1 Linear feet

Scope and Contents: This series contains an address given by Tomlinson Todd at a testimonial banquet concerning the need for greater equality in America.

Box 1, Folder 4 [acma-06-077-011 to acma-06-077-014: Address by Mr. Tomlinson D. Todd, Director of the "Americans All" Radio Program and President of the Institute on Race Relations, 1949 February 28](#)
4 Pages (11 x 8 1/2 inches)
Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
Place: Washington, D.C. -- history
Genre/Form: Speeches
Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)

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Series 4: Tickets, 1945, 1946

Box 1, Folder 5 [acma-06-077-015: Intercultural-International Dance presented by the Institute on Race Relations, 1945, May 25](#)
4 Items (2 1/4 x 4 3/4 inches.)
Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
Place: Washington, D.C. -- history
Genre/Form: Admission tickets
Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)

Box 1, Folder 5 [acma-06-077-016: Second Annual Intercultural-International Dance presented by the Institute on Race Relations, 1946, May 29](#)
4 Items (2 1/4 x 4 3/4 inches.)
Creator: Institute on Race Relations (Washington, D.C.)
Topic: Race relations -- Washington (D.C.)
Place: Washington, D.C. -- history
Genre/Form: Admission tickets

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