

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Glegg Watson

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Watson, Glegg
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Glegg Watson,
<b>Dates:</b>	March 10, 2001
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2001
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:14:55).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Corporate executive Glegg Watson (1944 - ) served as the Vice President of Public and Urban Affairs in U.S. Customer Operations for the Xerox Corporation, where he was heavily involved in philanthropic endeavors. Watson's unfinished University of Syracuse dissertation, "Black Life in Corporate America: Swimming in the Mainstream," eventually became the best seller. Watson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 10, 2001, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2001_077
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Businessman and author, Glegg Watson was born on February 4, 1944 in Kingston, Jamaica, but moved to the U.S. at the age of fifteen. Finishing high school in Washington, D.C., Watson enrolled in Howard University majoring in political science and economics. While at Howard, Watson became interested in journalism and after graduation worked as a journalist for The Washington Post. As a reporter, he covered many stories on integration and the turbulent events of the 1960s including collaborating on the book *Ten Blocks from the White House*, about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Watson went on to obtain a M.A. degree in public administration through a joint program at Cornell University and the University of Syracuse. Watson also started to pursue his doctorate from Syracuse, but left after the administration told him that black doctoral students were not a priority at the university.

He joined the prestigious consulting firm, Booz Allen & Hamilton as a management consultant in 1972. As a consultant he was instrumental in the restructuring of private companies and public sector organizations. In 1976, Watson joined Xerox Corporation, as its human resources manager. For years, he has served as the vice president to of public and urban affairs for the U.S. customer operations where he is heavily involved with the Xerox's philanthropy endeavors.

His unfinished University of Syracuse dissertation eventually became the best seller, *Black Life in Corporate America: Swimming in the Mainstream* published in 1982. The book chronicled his research on gender and racial experiences in Fortune 500 companies. It was so widely read that Watson was considered an expert, making appearances on various television programs including ABC's Nightline and CNN's Larry King Live.

Watson sits on the Board of Trustees at Howard University, Lincoln University and North Carolina A&T and is the

recipient of numerous awards and honorary doctorates. Watson is currently at work on his second book, *Not One of the Boys: Reflections on Power in America*.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Glegg Watson was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on March 10, 2001, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Corporate executive Glegg Watson (1944 - ) served as the Vice President of Public and Urban Affairs in U.S. Customer Operations for the Xerox Corporation, where he was heavily involved in philanthropic endeavors. Watson's unfinished University of Syracuse dissertation, "Black Life in Corporate America: Swimming in the Mainstream," eventually became the best seller.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Watson, Glegg

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Watson, Glegg--Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Xerox Corporation

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# Occupations:

Corporate Executive

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

BusinessMakers

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# Administrative Information

## Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

## Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Glegg Watson, March 10, 2001. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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# Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

- Video Oral History Interview with Glegg Watson, Section A2001\_077\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:14 ?  
Businessman and author Glegg Watson describes his family background and his childhood growing up in Jamaica. He shares memories of his father, who died when he was only four years old, and describes the impact the death had on his life. He describes the close relationship he had with his mother, and relates some of his fondest memories and favorite activities from his childhood. Watson also explains his desire to come to American and study at Howard University, prompted by a visit from Queen Elizabeth II.
- Video Oral History Interview with Glegg Watson, Section A2001\_077\_001\_002, TRT: 0:28:56 ?  
Businessman and author Glegg Watson describes his time at Howard University, detailing the activist politics that inundated the campus during the turbulent 1960s. Watson recounts his own involvement in the political movement, which included accepting a job at the 'Washington Post' so he could ensure fair and accurate coverage of the Civil Rights Movement. Watson then describes his experience at graduate school, explaining how racial discrimination led him to leave school and take a job in consulting.
- Video Oral History Interview with Glegg Watson, Section A2001\_077\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:36 ?  
Businessman and author Glegg Watson describes his work in corporate America, both at Booz Allen Hamilton, a consulting firm, and his two-decade stint at Xerox Corporation. Watson details his ascent at Xerox, pointing out the various obstacles in his path. Watson also discusses the impact of his book, 'Black Life In Corporate America', which became a bestseller and has been influential in determining public perception of black business executives. Watson also talks about how the book affected his status within the Xerox Corporation.
- Video Oral History Interview with Glegg Watson, Section A2001\_077\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:09 ?  
Businessman and author Glegg Watson has a detailed discussion about the state of blacks in corporate America. He addresses topics such as underrepresentation of minorities on executive boards, and the impact of the hip-hop generation on black business. Watson then discusses his West Indian heritage and shares his own ethnic identity and racial pride.
- Video Oral History Interview with Glegg Watson, Section A2001\_077\_001\_005, TRT: 0:16:00 ?  
Businessman and author Glegg Watson discusses the present state of historically black colleges and universities, and makes suggestions concerning their future, particularly commenting on administrative roles. Watson stresses the value of a historically black education for African Americans, citing his own experience as he considers his legacy.