

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with The Honorable Edward Perkins

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Perkins, Edward A., 1928-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins,
Dates:	March 21, 2018 and November 1, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017 and 2018
Physical Description:	21 uncompressed MOV digital video files (9:35:46).
Abstract:	Ambassador Edward Perkins (1928 - 2020) served as the ambassador of Liberia, South Africa, Australia, and the United Nations. Perkins was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 21, 2018 and November 1, 2017, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_194
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Ambassador Edward Perkins was born on June 8, 1928 in Sterlington, Louisiana to Edward Joseph Perkins Sr. and Tiny Estella Noble Holmes. Raised by his maternal grandparents, Nathan Noble and Sarah Stovall, in Louisiana, Perkins moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, at the age of fourteen to attend high school. He moved to Portland, Oregon in 1947, where he graduated from Jefferson High School. In 1947, Perkins joined the U.S. army and was stationed in Korea and Japan. Perkins served four years with Marine Corps before accepting a position as Chief of Personnel at the Army and Air Force Exchange in Taipei, Taiwan. In 1967, Perkins earned his B.A. degree from the University of Maryland in Taipei, Taiwan, accepted an internship at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and commenced a tour of duty with the U.S. Operations Mission (USOM) in Thailand. Perkins earned his Ph.D. degree in public administration from the University of Southern California in 1978.

In 1972, Perkins accepted his first position with the U.S. Foreign Service, serving as a personnel officer in the office of the Director General, where he and other black officers worked to create more opportunities for minorities and women in the Foreign Service. In 1975, Perkins worked as a management analysis officer in the U.S. Department of State's Office of Management Operations, and was part of Henry Kissinger's Priorities Policy Group (PPG). In 1978, Perkins accepted a position as counselor for political affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Accra, Ghana. Three years later, Perkins became deputy chief of mission of the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Perkins returned to Washington D.C. to work as director of the Office of West Africa and, in 1985, Perkins was appointed as ambassador to Liberia. In 1986, Perkins became the first black ambassador assigned to the Republic of South Africa, where he was a vocal opponent of apartheid. In 1989, Perkins became the director general of the Foreign Service. He was appointed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nation in 1992 and, in 1993, Perkins accepted a position as ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia. After retiring from the Foreign Service in 1996, Perkins accepted a position at the University of Oklahoma, where he served as the executive director of the International Programs Center.

In 1983, Perkins received the Superior Honor Award from the United States Department of State. He earned the

Presidential Meritorious Service Award in 1987 and the Presidential Distinguished Service Award in 1989. He earned the Distinguished Honor Award from the United States Department of State in 1992. He is also a recipient of Kappa Alpha Psi's Laurel Wreath Award.

Perkins and his wife, Lucy Cheng-mei Liu, have two daughters, Katherine and Sarah.

Edward Perkins was interviewed by *TheHistoryMakers* on November 1, 2017.

Perkins passed away on November 7, 2020.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins was conducted by Randall Pinkston on March 21, 2018 and November 1, 2017, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 21 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Ambassador Edward Perkins (1928 - 2020) served as the ambassador of Liberia, South Africa, Australia, and the United Nations.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

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

Persons:

Perkins, Edward A., 1928-

Pinkston, Randall (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Perkins, Edward A., 1928- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Federal Government Appointee

HistoryMakers® Category:

CivicMakers

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 The Honorable Edward Perkins, March 21, 2018 and November 1, 2017. 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_001_001, TRT: 1:31:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_001_002, TRT: 2:30:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_001_003, TRT: 3:29:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_001_004, TRT: 4:32:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_001_005, TRT: 5:28:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_001_006, TRT: 6:13:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_007, TRT: 7:29:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_008, TRT: 8:29:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_009, TRT: 9:24:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_010, TRT: 10:34:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_011, TRT: 11:28:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_012, TRT: 12:29:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_013, TRT: 13:33:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_014, TRT: 14:28:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_015, TRT: 15:29:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_016, TRT: 16:28:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_017, TRT: 17:32:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_018, TRT: 18:33:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_019, TRT: 19:29:50 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_020, TRT: 20:13:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with The Honorable Edward Perkins, Section A2017_194_002_021, TRT: 21:04:47 ?