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PROMETHEANS

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PROMETHEANS INC., RECORDS

Collection 121-1

Prepared & Revised by:
Wilda D. Logan
June 1980

Scope Note

The Prometheans, Inc., named after the Greek god Prometheans (who gave light and knowledge), was founded by young Black 92nd Division combat soldiers as they fought together on foreign soil during World War II. These young Blacks met as a result of the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) initiated in 1942, and instituted at Howard University in 1943.

The purpose of the ASTP was to insure a continuous flow of technically and professionally trained men for the Army's World War II effort. The 300 Black youth recruits from all parts of the country who formed Howard's ASTP detachment were given training in engineering, medicine and dentistry. Most were assigned to active duty in early 1944. Most of the engineering students were assigned to the 92nd Infantry Division, the famed "Buffalo Soldier" Black combat division.

The Prometheans, Inc., was formed in 1944 at Fort Huachua, Arizona under the chairmanship of Pvt. Burrell B. DaHaven out of determination of the survivors of that war to unite in a formal organization as a memorial to their colleagues who died on the battlefield. The immediate organizational objective was to

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offer financial and moral support to its members as they adjusted to civilian life.

Howard University was designated as national headquarters for the Prometheans. The organizational coordinator was an honorary member, Dr. Merze Tate, who controlled and supervised all business and financial transactions. Today the Prometheans' organizational goal is to promote civic betterment through participation in fields of education, health, and especially in youth oriented activities.

The collections deposited by Dr. Merze Tate in 1945 and 1950 spans one-half linear f. The following items are

included in the collection: the original constitution and its copies, correspondence between the members stationed in the Pacific and European campaigns with Dr. Tate, correspondence between President Mordecai Johnson and Dr. Tate, application forms for membership, newsletters, financial reports and statements, postcards and xerox copies of postcards.

The highlight of the collection is a picture of the Dental Unit in ASTP at Howard in 1944 located in the Howard University Bulletin dated February 1, 1945.

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Series Description

- Series A Correspondence
- Box 121-1 Correspondence between members of the ASTP unit from Howard to Dr. Tate revealing comradery between ASTP members and their interest in the Promethean Inc. and its publications.
- Series B Financial Papers
- Box 121-1 Financial statements and reports of dues and expenditures as controlled by Dr. Tate for the Prometheans.
- Series C Documents
- Box 121-1 The original typescript constitution with holographic corrections and printed copies.
- Series D Manuscripts
- Box 121-1 A group of typescript poems by members of the Prometheans.
- Series E Printed Materials
- Box 121-1 Include greeting cards, original & xerox copies from ASTP members to Dr. Tate, printed newsletters of the Promethean and Howard University Bulletin dated 1945.

Container List

A Correspondence

Box 121-1	Folder	General
	1	Addison to Anderson
	2	Baker to Byam
	3	Cason to Dawson
	4	DeHaven, Burrell
	5	Elder to Farmer
	6	Geffrard to Hargrove
	7	Haydel to Hewlin
	8	Hicks to Hobbs
	9	Mordecai W. Johnson
	10	Jordan to Lewis
	11	Mackey to McNeal
	12	Noel to Norris
	13	Ollington to Plummer
	14	Queen James C.
	15	Redmond to Scott
	16	Scrutchinson to Sharpe
	17	Sleet to Sylvester
	18	Thomas to Turner
	19	Turnguest to Whitmore
	20	Other correspondent
	21	First name only
	22	General Correspondence - A-Z xerox copies

B Financial Papers

Box 121-1	23	Financial Papers
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C Documents

24	Original constitution - documents
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D Manuscripts

25	Poems composed by Prometheans
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E Printed Material

Box 121-1 Folder 26 Greetings and Thank"
 27 Easter Greetings
 28 Newsletters
 29 Howard University Bulletin
 d. 1945
 30 Filled Application Blanks
 31 Filled Blanks
 32 Application Blanks
 33 Application Blanks
 34 Application Blanks

