Guide to the Papers of

Michael Jackson – The Jackson 5

Prepared by Asia K. Bender, 2022

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**Tuskegee University**

**Archives**

**Tuskegee, AL 36088**

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**Collection Summary**

**Creator:** Jackson, Michael (1958-2009)

**Title:** Papers of Michael Jackson – The Jackson 5

**Dates:** 1958-2009

**Quantity:** 6.0 cubic feet

**Identification:**

**Abstract:** The legendary American musical dynasty, The Jackson 5, has influenced and paved the way for many artists worldwide. These Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees dominated the billboard charts and broke many records along the way, making them one of the most successful musical groups. They redefine precisely what it means to accomplish the “American Dream.”

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**Administrative Information**

**Preferred Citation**

Papers of Michael Jackson – The Jackson 5 (1958-2009)

**Acquisition Information**

No information available

**Processing Information**

The papers were received for processing in various containers, with the documents in folders. From their arrangement in the containers, the folders were not arranged any particular order. Many of the folders were not labeled, or were mislabeled in reference to their actual contents.

The processors decided to separate the folders into series according to subject matter that would be arranged alphabetically within each series.

In processing the collection, original folders were replaced with acid-free folders. Folders were labeled, either following the original labeling, or in the case of missing or incorrect labels were assigned folder titles. All metal fasteners were removed.

**Index Terms**

The papers are indexed under the following headings in the Tuskegee University Library’s online catalog. Researchers seeking materials about related subjects, persons, organizations or places should search the catalog using these headings.

**Subjects:**

African American Music

**Persons:**

Michael Jackson – The Jackson 5.

**Biography**

The Jackson 5 is an American Pop Band made of collective members and brothers Jermaine, Jackie, Tito, Marlon, and Michael Jackson (later Randy Jackson). The group was founded in their hometown Gary, Indiana, in 1964 by their father, Joe Jackson. After discontinuing their relationship with their first record deal with Steeltown Records and gaining the likes of Glady Knight and Diana Ross, the group signed to record executive Berry Gordy of Motown Records in 1968. It didn’t take long for the group to find success at their new record label, debuting with four consecutive number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100 charts with hit songs “The Love You Save, “I’ll Be There,” “I Want You Back,” and “ABC.”

The Jackson Five would continue to dominate billboards and triumphant tours in the 70s. The group was highly profitable in the music arena but also ventured off to other places, like voicing over an animated series, The Jackson 5ive, in 1971 and hosting a variety tv show called The Jackson in 1976. By 1975, the group had undergone significant changes due to the decline of success at Motown Records. Group member Jermaine Jackson would stay at Motown Records while the rest of the group and newly added member Randy Jackson would sign with Epic Records in 1976 as The Jacksons.

In December 1984, Michael Jackson announced during the highly successful Victory Tour that he was leaving the band to focus on his solo projects. This tour would be their last tour that featured all original members of the Jackson 5. The Jacksons would eventually record another album in 1989 called 2300 Jackson Street.

After being nominated four times, The Jackson 5 were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997. In 2001, the Jacksons reunited to perform their classic records featuring all six brothers on the MSG stage in New York. This would be their last performance, including Jermaine, Jackie, Tito, Marlon, Michael, and Randy Jackson.

Unfortunately, Michael Jackson passed away on June 25, 2009, at 50, in his home in Los Angeles, California.

**Scope and Contents**

The papers of Michael Jackson and The Jackson 5 consist of documents spanning 1971-1984. The contents include newspaper articles, magazine interviews of The Jackson 5 as a group, and separate interviews of each group member. It also includes magazine covers of the group’s father, Joseph Jackson, and family friend and musician Rockwell. Furthermore, there are posters of The Jackson 5 and Michael Jackson.

**Arrangement**

The papers are arranged into one series.

**Restrictions**

**Restrictions on Access**

There are no restrictions on access to these papers.

**Restrictions on Use**

Researchers are responsible for addressing copyright issues on materials not in the public domain.

**Inventory**

**Box Folder**

1 1 Posters of Michael Jackson and The Jackson 5 in the eighties

1 2 Interview Magazine: October 1982 issue – Michael Jackson

1 3 Class Magazine: August 1984 issue – Joe Jackson

1 4 Right On! Magazine: July 1984 issue – “Rockwell: Michael Jackson Watching

Him!”

1 5 The Journal and Advertiser: February 26, 1984 – Michael Jackson

1 6 Jet Magazine: February 1979-February 1984 issues – The Jackson 5 and Michael

Jackson

1 7 News Article about Michael Jackson

1 8 People Magazine: February 1984 issue and July 1984 issue

1 9 News Article about The Jackson 5 – 1971

1 10 Ebony Magazine: September 1970 issue and September 1971 – The Jackson 5

1 11 Ebony Magazine: September 1979, October 1981, November 1983 issues – The

Jackson 5 and Michael Jackson

1 12 Star Newspaper: April 3, 1984 issue – Michael Jackson

1 13 Time Magazine: March 19, 1984 issue – Michael Jackson

1 14 People Extra Weekly Magazine: November/December 1984 issue – Michael

Jackson

1 15 Life Magazine: September 1984 issue – Michael Jackson

1 16 Rolling Stone: Issue no. 417, March 1984 and Issue no. 428, August 1984 –

Michael Jackson and The Jacksons