

--Press Release--
Washington, DC

THE THREADS OF TIME THE FABRIC OF HISTORY
Profiles of African American Dressmakers and Designers
by Rosemary E. Reed Miller

THE THREADS OF TIME THE FABRIC OF HISTORY, Profiles of African American Dressmakers and Designers from 1860 to the Present is a book that has been needed for some time. It fills the gap that exists in the general public's mind about what African American designers and dressmakers did before 1960. Most people think that African American designers, such as Patrick Kelly, Stephen Burrows and Willi Smith sprung up totally out of the air in the 1960's and the 1970's.

THE THREADS OF TIME AND THE FABRIC OF HISTORY documents that fashion and talent were alive and well from the 1860's and before. The Threads of Time, The Fabric of History fills in that information gap about the contributions of African American designers in the pre 1960's.

Rosemary E. Reed Miller, is a writer and the owner of the community-focused, and trendy store, ***Toast and Strawberries***, which opened in 1968. It included accessories, fashions and community work all under one roof. The store featured the work of small-business designers of clothing and accessories.

Luckily, Ms. Reed Miller, a history major graduate of Temple University, understood that the many people didn't have a sense of the struggles and accomplishments of early ***African American*** dressmakers and designers.

She researched and highlighted the forgotten work of Elizabeth Keckley, who designed for Mrs. Lincoln and Ann Lowe who designed the wedding dress for Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy. Also, she found Zelda Wynn, who designed for Marian Anderson, Josephine Baker, Gladys Knight, Dorothy Dandridge, and the singer Joyce Bryant. Ms.Wynn also designed the first Playboy costume.

THE THREADS OF TIME, 128 p., published by ***T&S Publishing***, September, 2002, is now available to the world to correct and add to the information for anyone interested in fashion and women in history.

Call or write for your copy, ***T & S Publishing*** 1532 Upshur Street, NW St., N.W. Washington, DC 20011.