

Hewitt

Protest and Progress

New York's First Black Episcopal Church Fights Racism

As both a preeminent scholar of Black Anglican and Episcopalians and devout parishoner, the late James Hewitt writes an illuminating history of one of the most famous black congregations in America. From its humble beginnings, St. Philip's originated from classes conducted by Elais Neau and other Anglican clerics for the society for the propagations of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. From these catechism classes emerged a highly educated, African-American group comprised of free and enslaved blacks. W.E.B. Dubois hailed it as the foundation for the Talented Tenth in his classic book *Souls of Black Folk After the American Revolution*. St. Philip's has since become the church of middle-class blacks across New York City. Hewitt's careful and precise scholarship chronicles over two centuries of the church's history, which fills a significant gap in African-American Religious history.

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205,70 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780815334729

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-8153-3472-9

Verlag: Routledge

Erscheinungstermin: 11.10.2000

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 1. Auflage 2000

Serie: Studies in African American History and Culture

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 360 g

Seiten: 174

Format (B x H): 145 x 222 mm

