

Norfolk Poet's Club records

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1896; 1912-1983

Title Statement

Norfolk Poet's Club records Norfolk Poet's Club records MSS 14245

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: English

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 14245

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/881

Unit Date

1896; 1912-1983

Language

English

Extent

2 Cubic Feet 4 oversize boxes 6 scrapbooks

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

Preferred Citation

MSS 14245 Norfolk Poet's Club records, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia.

Historical Note

The Norfolk Poet's Club originally consisted of five women: Josephine Johnson, her sister Julia Johnson Davis, Mary Sinton Leach, Virginia Taylor McCormick, and Virginia Lynne Tunstall. In 1921, they sponsored the formation of a literary magazine called "The Lyric" (originally edited by John R. Moreland) which has been called "America's oldest traditional poetry magazine of independent and continuous publication," and has operated under different editorships for over 50 years. Source: Dealers notes

Josephine Johnson, one of the outstanding poets in the country, and a sonneteer of note, was awarded first prize for her collection of poems, "The Unwilling Gypsy," in the sixth book publication contest of the Kaleidograph Press, Dallas, Texas in 1936. Miss Johnson was vice-president of the poetry Society of Virginia, and a member of the Poetry Society of America, the Catholic Poetry Society, and the Writers' Club of Norfolk. She was born in Norfolk and attended the University of Virginia and Harvard College. Her poems have appeared in "The American Mercury", "The New Republic", "Harpers Magazine", "The London Mercury", "The Commonwealth", "The Personalist", "The New York Times", "The New York Sun", and the "Boston Transcript". Josephine Johnson "is a poet of a single theme-that of life's challenge to the spirit to endure.z' Source: Scrapbook

William Stanley Braithwaite (1878-1962) was a poet, editor, publisher, and anthologist who was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1890 upon his father's death, he had to quit school and educate himself while working as a typesetter in a Boston printing firm. He developed a love of lyric poetry and wrote several poems that were published. Writing a regular column for the "Boston Transcript" he brought serious attention to the works of many African American poets and eventually edited "The Anthology of Magazine Verse". Throughout the years of compiling the Anthology, he remained committed to the notion that verse should be an expression of spiritual truth and eternal beauty beyond what he conceived of as the limits of merely political or racial concerns. He introduced the general poetry-reading public to a wide range of African American voices they might otherwise never have heard. Source: Dealers notes

Scope and Contents Note

Norfolk Poet's Club Records (1912-1983; 2 cubic feet) include manuscripts of Josephine Johnson and Margaret Haley Carpenter; and correspondence of Mary Sinton Leitch, Josephine Johnson, Julia Johnson Davis, and William Stanley Braithwaite. There are also press releases, newspaper clippings, printed items, and scrapbooks about these poets and editors and their colleagues as well as their poetry and the creative writing process.

Keywords

letters (correspondence)

Scrapbooks

poetry

clippings (information artifacts)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 5 series. Series 1. Manuscripts; Series 2. Correspondence; Series 3. Press releases, newspaper clippings, and printed items; Series 4. Scrapbooks (and account book of poems sold to publications); Series 5. Miscellaneous (hobbies of Josephine Johnson and business receipts from 1896 {Turner Family})

Description of Subordinate Components

Manuscripts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179026

Unit Date 1926-1958

Language English

Scope and Contents

"Sara Teasdale: A Biography" Margaret Haley Carpenter; "Anthology of Magazine Verse", 1958 Margaret Haley Carpenter; "The Treasure" Margaret Haley Carpenter; "It is the Year's End" Josephine Johnson; "The

Sun Again in the---Returning" Josephine Johnson, "Unused Versions of Unused Poems" Josephine Johnson; "Autumnal"; "Side Boy"; "Notes on Truth and Poetry" Josephine Johnson; "Titled Poems" Josephine Johnson; "Untitled Poems" Josephine Johnson; Holograph poem; notes and drafts written on the verso of rejection letters by Josephine Johnson; "The Fur Coat Story Josephine Johnson; Prose, short stories; Mr. Hall"; "Flies" Josephine Johnson.

"Sara Teasdale: A Biography" Margaret Haley Carpenter

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179027

Unit Date Undated

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"Anthology of Magazine Verse" Margaret Haley Carpenter

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179028

Unit Date 1958

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

"The Treasure" Margaret Haley Carpenter

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179029

Unit Date undated

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

"It is the Year's End" Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179030

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

"The Sun Again in the---Returning"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179031

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

"Unused Versions of Unused Poems" Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179032

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

"Autumnal"; "Side Boy"; "Notes on Truth and Poetry" Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179033

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

"Titled Poems" Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179034

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

"Untitled Poems" Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179035

Manuscripts [X030899338] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Holograph poem; Notes and drafts of poems; Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179036

Manuscripts [X030899339] 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

"The Fur Coat Story" Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179037

Manuscripts [X030899339] 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Prose, short stories "Mr. Hall"; "Flies" Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179038

Manuscripts [X030899339] 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Press Releases, newspaper clippings, and printed

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179043

Unit Date 1912-1960

Language English

Scope and Contents

Newspaper clippings, rejection letters, and press releases can also be found in scrapbooks.

Newsletters and printed items

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179044

Mixed Materials [X030899339] 2 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

"The Virginia Author's Yearbook 1958" Printed

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179045

Unit Date 1958

Mixed Materials [X030899339] 2 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

Newspaper clippings-poets

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179046

Unit Date 1933-1967

Mixed Materials [X030899339] 2 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Newspaper clippings-poems and writing (photocopies)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179047

Mixed Materials [X030899339] 2 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Newspaper clippings-general topics

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179048

Mixed Materials [X030899346] 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Press releases William Stanley Braithwaite

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179049

Mixed Materials [X030899346] 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Scrapbooks

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179050

Language English

Account book for sold poems

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179562

Unit Date 1930's

Ledgers [X030899346] 3 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Eleanor Shipp scrapbook of Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179560

Unit Date 1923-1941

Mixed Materials [X030899346] 3 (box)

Container 7-9 (folder)

Language English

Biographical / Historical

Eleanor Shipp is the mother of poet Josephine Johnson

"The Unwilling Gypsy" scrapbook

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179561

Unit Date 1936-1939

Mixed Materials [X030899346] 3 (box)

Container 10-13 (folder)

Language English

Oversize Scrapbook # 1

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179698

Unit Date 1921-1928

Mixed Materials [X030899347] OS box P-50 (Flat_Box)

Container 1-6 (folder)

Language English

Scope and Contents

Includes letter from University of Virginia professor Armistead C. Gordon

Arrangement

Scrapbook contained correspondence that was in envelopes attached to very brittle and fragile pages. Removed the letters and placed them in acid-free inserts in the scrapbooks. Numbered the letters to match the original envelopes.

Oversize Scrapbook #2

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179699

Unit Date 1928-1933

Mixed Materials [X030899348] OS box P-51 (Flat_Box)

Container 1-5 (folder)

Language English

Arrangement

Scrapbook contains correspondence in envelopes attached to very brittle and fragile pages. Letters removed and placed in acid-free inserts. Matched numbers for letters and original envelopes.

Oversize scrapbook #3 and #4

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179700

Unit Date 1934-1935; 1936-1938

Mixed Materials [X030899349] OS box P-52 (Flat_Box)

Container 1-3; 1-4 (folder)

Language English

Arrangement

Scrapbook contains correspondence in envelopes attached to very brittle and fragile pages. Letters removed and placed in acid-free inserts. Matched numbers for letters and original envelopes.

Oversize scrapbook #5 and #6

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179701

Unit Date 1938-1940; 1941-1953

Mixed Materials [X030899350] OS box P-53 (Flat_Box)

Container 1-4; 1-3 (folder)

Language English

Arrangement

Scrapbook contains correspondence in envelopes attached to very brittle and fragile pages. Letters removed and placed in acid-free inserts. Matched numbers for letters and original envelopes.

Miscellaneous

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179051

Unit Date 1896; 1957

Language English

Scope and Contents

[Turner] family business receipts. Josephine Johnson papers related to her interests in gardening and flower arrangements.

Miscellaneous [Turner] family receipts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179052

Unit Date 1896

Manuscripts [X030899346] 3 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Miscellaneous Josephine Johnson

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/179053

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [X030899346] 3 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English