

Edward J. Cabbell, Historian, Papers, 1969-1988 A&M 0217

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Title Statement

Edward J. Cabbell, Historian, Papers, 1969-1988 A&M 0217

Author: Staff of the West Virginia & Regional History Center

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Descriptive Summary

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Abstract

The papers of Edward J. Cabbell, an author, poet, editor, and historian documents subjects regarding African-American history in Appalachia, encompassing the colonial period through 1988. The materials include research papers, articles, photographs, clippings, books, and publications such as "Then & Now" and "Black Diamonds". There is also information pertaining to the John Henry legend and includes articles, music references and literature. There are photographs of paintings and sculptures of John Henry, candid images of the John Henry Folk Festivals, Edward J. Cabbell as the director of the John Henry Memorial Foundation and Louis W. Chappell, a West Virginia University professor who compiled a massive collection of Appalachia folklore and music, including John Henry material.

Creator

Cabbell, Edward J., 1946-

Extent

1.5 Linear Feet Summary: 1 ft. 6 in. (3 document cases, 5 in. each); (1 small flat storage box, 3 in.)

Physical Location

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Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

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Biographical / Historical

Edward Cabbell's career as an author began with the publication of a short story in *Phylon: The Atlanta University Review of Race and Culture*. In 1970 he published his first book of poetry which received critical praise from the poet and independent African-American publisher of Broadside Press, Dudley Randall. Randall compared Cabbell favorably to his contemporaries, poets such as Sonia Sanchez and Don Lee (Haki Madhubuti). While he continued to publish more short stories and poetry, he became a guest editor and contributor to Appalachian publications such as: *Now and Then*, *Hill & Valley*, *Goldenseal* and *Mountain Life & Work*. Cabbell also founded and directed the John Henry Memorial Foundation in Princeton, West Virginia. The development of his poetry and literature is as a voice of the African-American Appalachian experience immortalizing it in a way comparable to Langston Hughes of the Harlem Renaissance.

Keywords

Appalachian Region

African Americans

African-Americans. SEE ALSO Coal miners - African Americans.

Authors -- Letters and papers

Photography

Poetry.

Cabbell, Edward J., 1946-
Randall, Dudley, 1914-2000