

CARR, SHARON, 1967-1990.

Sharon Carr papers, 1981-1991

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Carr, Sharon, 1967-1990.
Title: Sharon Carr papers, 1981-1991
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 692
Extent: 2.75 linear feet (9 boxes) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Papers of Emory alumnus and poet Sharon Carr.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Source

Gift, 1991, with subsequent additions from various donors.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Sharon Carr papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Barbara J. Mann, October 1991.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

Sharon Michele Carr, daughter of Robert and Ruth Carr, was born March 27, 1967 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. During the summer of 1984, Sharon Carr was diagnosed as having brain cancer. Despite surgeries to remove the tumor, the cancer remained.

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Carr enrolled in Emory University in the fall of 1985 with a double major of English and religion. She remained in residence for two years, but had to withdraw in September of 1987 when her condition worsened. During her academic career she maintained a 3.9 academic average and won a Bobby Jones Scholarship to attend Saint Andrews University in Scotland for a year, but declined because of her health problems. In the spring of 1987, Emory president James T. Laney and Dean David Minter traveled to Augusta to present Carr a baccalaureate degree based on her scholastic work and poetry.

Poetry, which had been a hobby for Sharon Carr, became an outlet for dealing with her disease. She poured her feelings and faith into her writings. As the disease progressed and she was unable to write, friends devised a device to make it possible for Sharon to continue to use her word processor. In 1988 she sent autographed copies of her poems under the title of "Poems and Meditations of a Creature" to select friends. One such recipient was Dr. Floyd C. Watkins, Charles Howard Candler Professor of American Literature at Emory University. It was he who contacted Sharon Carr about publishing her poems and served as her agent in getting them published. Working together, poems were selected and edited, though she died before the book *Yet Life Was a Triumph: Poems and Meditations* (Oliver-Nelson, 1991) was actually published.

Sharon Carr died October 1, 1990 in Augusta, Georgia.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Sharon Carr papers from 1981-1991. The papers include manuscripts of writings, correspondence, and printed materials. These papers form part of the Floyd C. Watkins American Literary Collection.

Series 1, Sharon Carr papers, were given to the library by her parents. The bulk of this series consists of poems written by Sharon Carr, mainly in the form of photocopied word processor typescripts, although a handful of holograph poems are also found. Also included in this series are some personal materials such as correspondence, including a letter each from Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter and letters to her parents and Floyd C. Watkins; journals she kept while in high school and college; articles about her (also OP 1) and awards she received; and programs from her memorial service and from "A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving to God for the Witness of Sharon M. Carr". Emory University professors' materials (Series 2) came from three different sources and have been grouped accordingly. The Floyd C. Watkins materials relate to the publishing of Sharon Carr's poems and includes proposals; correspondence with Carr and her parents, with Westminster-John Knox Press, Oliver-Nelson Books, James T. Laney and others; drafts of the foreword written by Watkins; manuscript for the book, mainly in the form of word processor typescript photocopies; and an autobiographical writing by Watkins entitled "A Dying Child" which recounts his first meetings with Sharon Carr.

The David Blumenthal materials contain correspondence between Blumenthal/Carr and her parents and photocopied word processor typescripts of Carr's poems. Blumenthal, Jay and Leslie Cohen Chair of Judaic Studies, was Carr's religion adviser during her tenure at Emory.

The Walter Reed materials also relate to the publishing of Carr's book and consists of photocopied word processor typescripts of the book manuscript drafts including those under the original title of "In the Valley of the Shadow: Poems of Trouble and Trust", correspondence, and corrections suggested by Floyd C. Watkins. Also included are items of correspondence

pertaining to Carr's baccalaureate degree, a copy of the memorial service program, and clippings. Reed is Professor of English and department chair at Emory University.

Duplication of some of the materials relating to the publication of this book, especially in the form of manuscripts and correspondence, is found in all three groups.

Series 3, collected material, contains clippings collected by this department.

Arrangement Note

Organized into three series: (1) Sharon Carr papers, (2) Emory University professor's materials, and (3) Collected materials.

Description of Series

[Series 1: Sharon Carr papers](#)

[Series 2: Emory University professors' materials](#)

[Series 3: Collected materials](#)

Series 1
Sharon Carr papers
Boxes 1 - 4

Arrangement Note

Arranged in alphabetical order.

Poems written before Fall 1987 (do not appear in *Poems and Meditations of a Creature*)

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	No titles
1	2	Prose
1	3	Originals-many from "Poems and Meditations of a Creature"
1	4	Literary Magazines
1	5	Journal kept while in college
1	6	Journal-ages 14-15
1	7	Journal, summer, 1982
1	8	"Poems and Meditations of a Creature" [autographed]
1	9	And Then I Dance
1	10	And the River Speaks, 16 April 1990
1	11	Answer to Lucretius
1	12	April Meadow
1	13	Aqua Rage
1	14	Arid
1	15	At the End of the Day
1	16	Away
1	17	Bells at Noon
1	18	Beseiged
1	19	Be Still My Soul
1	20	Boiling Oxen
1	21	The Bread and the Wine
1	22	A Chance Meeting
1	23	Cinquains
1	24	Chop, Chop
1	25	A Christmas Story, 5 December 1984
1	26	A Comment on the Yellow Wood
1	27	Communion of Saints
1	28	Dare
1	29	Darius
1	30	Dawn
1	31	Divine Perception

1	32	Drowning Past
1	33	Early Riser
1	34	Easter Prelude
1	35	The 84th Fury
1	36	Energy
1	37	Entreaty
1	38	Etchings
1	39	Eternal Circle
1	40	Exiled
1	41	The Eye of the Tyger
1	42	Faulted Pain
1	43	Femme Rage
1	44	The Few, The Proud
1	45	The Fifth Day
1	46	A Final Fury
1	47	Finitude
1	48	The First Sunrise
1	49	The Fly and the Stone
1	50	Fog
1	51	For Tomorrow
1	52	Fragrant Allegiance
1	53	A Friar on the Field
1	54	Friendship
1	55	Frustrated
1	56	From Here to There
2	1	The Good Fight
2	2	A Good Tree
2	3	A Great Calm
2	4	A Greater Purpose
2	5	Hawaiian Moment
2	6	Here Am I
2	7	His Face Was Rough
2	8	Holy Week
2	9	Hope for a Brighter Day
2	10	Hosanna
2	11	The Human Condition
2	12	Humble Babe
2	13	The Ideal
2	14	Illusion

2	15	Illusions of an Oyster Bed
2	16	The Inflictor
2	17	In Search of Yang
2	18	In the Aftermath
2	19	Island Secret
2	20	Jesus
2	21	The Judge at the Door
2	22	Jungle Progeny
2	23	Last Call
2	24	Let Them Come
2	25	Lonely Obsession
2	26	Losing Life
2	27	Lupus Rage
2	28	A Mallot for Your Mirror
2	29	Mandatum
2	30	The Manger In Your Eyes
2	31	The Means and the End
2	32	Memoriam
2	33	A Meteor Shower (two versions)
2	34	Missed
2	35	The Modern Deception
2	36	Mountain Voice
2	37	A Multitude
2	38	My Left Hand
2	39	Nature's Music
2	40	Needing You
2	41	Noli Me Tangere
2	42	Nox Rage
2	43	O Hunted Man; Moth
2	44	On the Cross/Wasted Hours
2	45	On the Materialistic Urge
2	46	Onward Ho
2	47	Path to Nowhere
2	48	Piety
2	49	Piscean Reminder
2	50	Playground In the Sky
2	51	Progress
2	52	The Promise (note differences)
2	53	The Paslam of Trust

2	54	Pumpkin Dream
2	55	Redeeming Admissions
2	56	Reflections of Nothing
2	57	Remembrance
2	58	Sand; Script
2	59	Scarface
2	60	A Seasonal Shame
2	61	Seasons of Suffering
2	62	The Secret to Swarming
2	63	Self
2	64	Serenade
2	65	Shackled
2	66	The Shepherd's Crook
2	67	Silent Night
2	68	Silhouette
2	69	Somewhere Over the Something
2	70	Something Infinitely Greater
2	71	Soul Scrawl
2	72	The Spear in My Heart
2	73	The Spiritual Debt
2	74	Stormcloud Passion
2	75	Sunset on a Timetable
2	76	Swamp Tromping
2	77	Take Heart, Daughter
2	78	Teddy
2	79	Tanka on Wisdom; Tanka on Poetry
2	80	Tenebrous Truth
2	81	Terra Rage
2	82	That Time of Year
2	83	That Which is Earned
2	84	There is Sweetness in the Morning
2	85	The Thinkers
2	86	Thoughts on a Sunday Afternoon
2	87	A Threnody in Three Movements
2	88	A Time for Now
2	89	A Time for Peace
2	90	To Caring
2	91	To Love or to Hate
2	92	Tomb Testament

2	93	To the Normal People
2	94	Tumor Tear
2	95	Twilight Prayer
2	96	A Two-sided Coin
2	97	An Unmarked Grave
2	98	The Unmasking
2	99	Upon Fallen Leaves
2	100	Utter End
2	101	Ver Rage (two versions)
2	102	A Walk in the Woods
2	103	The Weight of the Cross
2	104	Whispered Praise (two versions)
2	105	Will I Stand
2	106	Where Aurora Lives
2	107	With Love to You
2	108	Wreath at a Wake
2	109	You (author's notes on back)
3	1	Awards, articles, pictures
3	2	Women of Excellence Award
3	3	Newspaper articles
3	4	Introduction to <i>Yet Life Was a Triumph</i> (not ultimately a part of the publication)
3	5	Workpapers- <i>Yet Life Was a Triumph</i>
3	6	Letters to parents
3	7	President James Laney Sermons and Correspondence
3	8	Dr. Floyd C. Watkins Correspondence
3	9	Correspondence: Emory and publishers
3	10	Letters from Presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter
3	11	Beardslee Prize Paper, 1987
3	12	Religion thesis
3	13	Speeches and papers

Poems written after fall 1987

3	14	Above and Below
3	15	Apocalyspe
3	16	Art Lesson
3	17	Autumn People, 1989 April
3	18	The Banquet
3	19	Beauty
3	20	The Birth of Sorrow
3	21	Cages, 1990 January

3	22	Carnival Celebration
3	23	The Cave
3	24	Clean Slate
3	25	Condemned to Live, Summer 1990
3	26	The Confidence of Stars
3	27	Courage
3	28	Creating a Vessel
3	29	Dreamers
3	30	Endings, 10 February 1990
3	31	The Enemy That is I
3	32	Eye Level, 27 April 1990
3	33	Faithfully
3	34	The Field of Ideas
3	35	The Flame
3	36	Following Stars
3	37	Freedom-Depth
3	38	The Fruit
3	39	God Speaking
3	40	Golgothan Pilgrimage
3	41	A Gray River
3	42	Happiness; Strength
3	43	Hero; Significance
3	44	Honesty; Praise
3	45	Hope for a Brighter Day, 24 July 1989
3	46	Humor; Integrity
3	47	Imagination; Thought
3	48	In the Beginning
3	49	My Inner Editor
3	50	Joy; Sorrow
3	51	July
3	52	Learning to Die
3	53	The Legend of Babel
3	54	A Letter to the Snow, 17 February 1990
3	55	Life Story, 9 February 1990
3	56	Looking for the Absolute
3	57	The Magi
3	58	Mary
3	59	Meaning; Wind
3	60	Mercy; Law

- 3 61 More than Conquerors
- 3 62 Muse
- 3 63 A New Thirst
- 3 64 The Odor of Goodbye, 16 April 1990
- 3 65 Of this World
- 3 66 The Original Sin
- 3 67 Patience; Honor
- 3 68 The Philistine of Existence
- 3 69 The Pier People (original written early, final draft written May 1989)
- 3 70 A Place Called Home, 8 June 1990
- 3 71 Raise Your Horns to Heaven, 11 May 1990
- 3 72 Relating
- 3 73 Remains
- 3 74 The Reminder
- 3 75 The Road Taken, 25 February 1990
- 3 76 Sadness; Tradition
- 3 77 A Samaritan Christmas
- 3 78 Self Sculptor
- 3 79 Sin; Laughter
- 3 80 Snake Burrows
- 3 81 The Solar and Lunar Cycle
- 3 82 The Solstice
- 3 83 The Spelling Waters
- 3 84 The Spiritual and Physical
- 3 85 Spring Showers
- 3 86 The Subterranean Battle
- 3 87 A Summertime Tease
- 3 88 Sunshine
- 3 89 Swinging Teachers
- 3 90 The Temptation
- 3 91 A Time for Peace (different from poem with same title in Box 2)
- 3 92 Touch; Power
- 3 93 Trial by Living
- 3 94 Trust; Other
- 3 95 Truth; Fish
- 3 96 Tulip; Beast
- 3 97 Vanity Fanning
- 3 98 Ver Rage 15, March 1990
- 3 99 Vow; Frustration

- 3 100 What is Reality?
- 3 101 Where Pearls Might Hide
- 3 102 The Who
- 3 103 Winter Thunder
- 3 104 Wisdom; Innocence
- 3 105 The Witness
- 3 106 Wonder; Courage
- 3 107 Zoo lessons
- 4 1 Notebook: Correspondence with Floyd C. Watkins and poems to be included in
Yet Life Was a Triumph
- 4 2 Notes and correspondence
- OP1 1 Clipping: "Poetic brilliance helps Sharon Carr in a battle with pain" by Elizabeth
Kemple, The Augusta Chronicle/Augusta Herald, 19 March 1989
- 4 3 Program: Memorial service, 3 October 1990
- 4 4 Program: "A Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving to God for the Witness of
Sharon M. Carr", 29 September 1991
- 4 5 Emory Magazine, Fall 1991: "Don't Go Down", "Invitation"

Series 2
Emory University professors' materials
Boxes 5 - 8

Arrangement Note

Arranged by professor.

A. Floyd C. Watkins materials; *Yet Was Life a Triumph: Poems and Meditations*

Box	Folder	Content
5	1	Proposals, 1989
5	2	Correspondence and contract with Oliver-Nelson Books, 1990 (photocopy)
5	3	Notes re contract with Carrs
5	4	Foreward (corrected typescripts)
5	5	Table of contents (corrected typescripts)
5	6	Manuscript: Preface, foreward, table of contents (typescript); poems (word processor typescript photocopies)
5	7	Poems (word processor typescript photocopies)
5	8	Poems (word processor typescript photocopies)

Other Carr Writings

5	9	Prose (word processor typescript photocopies)
5	10	Poetry (word processor typescript photocopies)
5	11	"Poems and Mediations of a Creature" by Sharon Carr (autographed)

Watkins/Carr correspondence

5	12	1988
5	13	1989 January-June
5	14	1989 July-December
5	15	1990, no date
6	1	Watkins/Ruth Carr correspondence, 1989-1991, 1993, no date
6	2	Correspondence re Baccalaureate degree, 1988-1989, no date
6	3	Watkins/Westminster-John Knox Press, 1989
6	4	Oliver-Nelson correspondence, 1989, 1991
6	5	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1989-1990
6	6	Collected correspondence: Laney/Carr correspondence, 1990
6	7	Collected correspondence, 1987, 1990-1991
6	8	Clippings, 1989
6	9	"A Dying Child" by Floyd C. Watkins: Corrected typescript
6	10	Carr memorial service program, 3 October 1990
6	11	Carr obituary, 1990

- 6 12 Collected material: Baccalaureate address by James T. Laney: "The Tree that Gives Good Fruit", 1989

B. David Blumenthal materials

- 6 13 Blumenthal/Carr correspondence, 1986, 1988-1990
 6 14 Blumenthal correspondence, 1990-1991
 6 15 Carr poetry (word processor typescripts)

C. Walter Reed materials

- 7 1 Proposals re publication, 1989, no date
 7 2 Watkins's comments on earlier text, Fall 1989
 7 3 Watkins's corrections and comments, 1989
 7 4 Carr's replies to Watkins's comments, [1989-1990?]
 7 5 Watkins's comments on Carr's replies, 1990

"In the Valley of the Shadow: Poems of Trouble and Trust"

- 7 6 Manuscript: Cover, table of contents (word processor typescript originals);
 7 7 Manuscript: Bewilderment, 1984 spring-1985 (photocopies)
 7 8 Manuscript: Grief, 1986 spring (photocopies)
 7 9 Manuscript: Grief, 1986 summer, fall (photocopies)
 7 10 Manuscript: Anger, 1986 winter (photocopies)
 7 11 Manuscript: Anger, 1987 spring, summer (photocopies)
 7 12 Manuscript: Peace, 1987-1989 (photocopies)
 7 13 Manuscript: Bewilderment-Grief (photocopies)
 7 14 Manuscript: Anger-Peace (photocopies)
 7 15 Manuscript: Corrections (photocopies with original corrections)

Yet Life Was a Triumph: Poems and Meditations

- 7 16 Manuscript: Bewilderment, 1984 spring-1985 spring (photocopies)
 7 17 Manuscript: Bewilderment, 1985 fall, winter (photocopies)
 7 18 Manuscript: Grief, 1986 spring (photocopies; 1 original page of corrections)
 7 19 Manuscript: Section II (photocopies)
 7 20 Manuscript: Anger, 1986 winter (photocopies)
 7 21 Manuscript: Anger, 1987 summer (photocopies)
 7 22 Manuscript: Peace, 1987 fall (photocopies)
 7 23 Poems rejected from Carr manuscript by Reed
 8 1 Miscellaneous poems (photocopies)
 8 2 Preface by James T. Laney
 8 3 Foreward by Floyd C. Watkins
 8 4 Listing of poems to be used
 8 5 Collected correspondence re publication, 1989-1991, no date

8 6 Miscellaneous notes

Other materials

8 7 Carr poems (photocopies)

8 8 Collected correspondence: Merit Scholarship, 1986-1987

8 9 Carr Baccalaureate Degree correspondence, 1989

8 10 Memorial service program, 1990

8 11 Clippings, 1989 (photocopies)

Series 3
Collected materials
Boxes 9

Arrangement Note

No arrangement; very small volume.

Box	Folder	Content
9	1	Clippings, 1991
OP1	2	Clipping: "A Poetic Legacy" by Douglas Monroe, Atlanta Journal 18 September 1991
