Descriptive Summary

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
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

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.

Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.
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 foreward 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)  

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Illusions of an Oyster Bed
The Inflecter
In Search of Yang
In the Aftermath
Island Secret
Jesus
The Judge at the Door
Jungle Progeny
Last Call
Let Them Come
Lonely Obsession
Losing Life
Lupus Rage
A Mallot for Your Mirror
Mandatum
The Manger In Your Eyes
The Means and the End
Memoriam
A Meteor Shower (two versions)
Missed
The Modern Deception
Mountain Voice
A Multitude
My Left Hand
Nature's Music
Needing You
Noli Me Tangere
Nox Rage
O Hunted Man; Moth
On the Cross/Wasted Hours
On the Materialistic Urge
Onward Ho
Path to Nowhere
Piety
Piscean Reminder
Playground In the Sky
Progress
The Promise (note differences)
The Paslam of Trust
54 Pumpkin Dream
55 Redeeming Admissions
56 Reflections of Nothing
57 Remembrance
58 Sand; Script
59 Scarface
60 A Seasonal Shame
61 Seasons of Suffering
62 The Secret to Swarming
63 Self
64 Serenade
65 Shackled
66 The Shepherd's Crook
67 Silent Night
68 Silhouette
69 Somewhere Over the Something
70 Something Infinitely Greater
71 Soul Scrawl
72 The Spear in My Heart
73 The Spiritual Debt
74 Stormcloud Passion
75 Sunset on a Timetable
76 Swamp Tromping
77 Take Heart, Daughter
78 Teddy
79 Tanka on Wisdom; Tanka on Poetry
80 Tenebrous Truth
81 Terra Rage
82 That Time of Year
83 That Which is Earned
84 There is Sweetness in the Morning
85 The Thinkers
86 Thoughts on a Sunday Afternoon
87 A Threnody in Three Movements
88 A Time for Now
89 A Time for Peace
90 To Caring
91 To Love or to Hate
92 Tomb Testament
To the Normal People
Tumor Tear
Twilight Prayer
A Two-sided Coin
An Unmarked Grave
The Unmasking
Upon Fallen Leaves
Utter End
Ver Rage (two versions)
A Walk in the Woods
The Weight of the Cross
Whispered Praise (two versions)
Will I Stand
Where Aurora Lives
With Love to You
Wreath at a Wake
You (author's notes on back)
Awards, articles, pictures
Women of Excellence Award
Newspaper articles
Introduction to Yet Life Was a Triumph (not ultimately a part of the publication)
Workpapers-Yet Life Was a Triumph
Letters to parents
President James Laney Sermons and Correspondence
Dr. Floyd C. Watkins Correspondence
Correspondence: Emory and publishers
Letters from Presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter
Beardslee Prize Paper, 1987
Religion thesis
Speeches and papers

Poems written after fall 1987
Above and Below
Apocalyspe
Art Lesson
Autumn People, 1989 April
The Banquet
Beauty
The Birth of Sorrow
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***

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<td>Foreward (corrected typescripts)</td>
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**Other Carr Writings**

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<td>Poetry (word processor typescript photocopies)</td>
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<td>&quot;Poems and Mediations of a Creature&quot; by Sharon Carr (autographed)</td>
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**Watkins/Carr correspondence**

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<td>&quot;A Dying Child&quot; by Floyd C. Watkins: Corrected typescript</td>
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Collected material: Baccalaureate address by James T. Laney: "The Tree that Gives Good Fruit", 1989

B. David Blumenthal materials
- Blumenthal correspondence, 1990-1991
- Carr poetry (word processor typescripts)

C. Walter Reed materials
- Proposals re publication, 1989, no date
- Watkins's comments on earlier text, Fall 1989
- Watkins's corrections and comments, 1989
- Carr's replies to Watkins's comments, [1989-1990?]
- Watkins's comments on Carr's replies, 1990

"In the Valley of the Shadow: Poems of Trouble and Trust"
- Manuscript: Cover, table of contents (word processor typescript originals);
- Manuscript: Bewilderment, 1984 spring-1985 (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Grief, 1986 spring (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Grief, 1986 summer, fall (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Anger, 1986 winter (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Anger, 1987 spring, summer (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Bewilderment-Grief (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Anger-Peace (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Corrections (photocopies with original corrections)

Yet Life Was a Triumph: Poems and Meditations
- Manuscript: Bewilderment, 1984 spring-1985 spring (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Bewilderment, 1985 fall, winter (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Grief, 1986 spring (photocopies; 1 original page of corrections)
- Manuscript: Section II (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Anger, 1986 winter (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Anger, 1987 summer (photocopies)
- Manuscript: Peace, 1987 fall (photocopies)
- Poems rejected from Carr manuscript by Reed
- Miscellaneous poems (photocopies)
- Preface by James T. Laney
- Foreward by Floyd C. Watkins
- Listing of poems to be used
- Collected correspondence re publication, 1989-1991, no date
Miscellaneous notes

Other materials
8  6  Miscellaneous notes

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.  

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