KELLEY, WILLIAM MELVIN, 1937-
William Melvin Kelley family papers

Emory University
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Kelley, William Melvin, 1937-
Title: William Melvin Kelley family papers
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1038
Extent: 12 linear ft. (12 boxes) and AV Masters: 1.25 linear ft. (2 boxes)
Abstract: Papers of African American author William Melvin Kelley and his family, including business and family correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed material.
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, 2006.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], William Melvin Kelley family papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Unprocessed collection.
**Collection Description**

**Biographical Note**  
William Melvin Kelley (1937-2017), African American author. He is the son of newspaper editor William Melvin Kelley, Sr. (1894-1958) and the brother of chemist Sinah Estelle Kelley (1916- ).

**Scope and Content Note**  
The collection contains the papers of William Melvin Kelley, William Melvin Kelley, Sr., and Sinah Estelle Kelley. The papers include business and family correspondence, writings, photographs, and printed material.

**Arrangement Note**  
Unprocessed collection.
### Container List

#### Family papers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Sr., subject files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Sr., correspondence</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Sr., writings and Sinah Kelley yearbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sinah Kelley, papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., business/personal</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., writings, scrapbooks, printed material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., family papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., writings</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., writings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>William Melvin Kelley, Jr., notebooks containing manuscript writings; diaries/journals, 1979-1993; class and student notes from Sarah Lawrence, 1990-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Video Journals

**AV1**

- Video Journal, No. 1, February 18-24, 1989 [original: VHS]  
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7hs]
- Video Journal, No. 2, February 26-March 23, 1989 (includes Elizabeth Catlett Mora) [original: VHS]  
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn6tx]
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7c7]
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn6v2]
- Video Journal, No. 5, September 5, 1989-August 4, 1990 [original: VHS]  
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn94g]

#### Family Tapes

**AV1**

- Family Tape No 1, January 27-February 3, 1989 [original: VHS]  
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7dc]
- Family Tape No 2, February 3-5, 1989 (Baby Cherlonda turning 2) [original: VHS]  
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7fh]
- Family Tape No 3, March 12-April 18, 1989 [original: VHS]  
  [Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn6xb]
- Family Tape No 4, April 18-May 20, 1989 [original: VHS]
AV1 - Family Tape No 5, May 22-July 3, 1989 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn6w6]

AV1 - Family Tape No 7, August 10-September 10, 1989 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn6zg]

AV1 - Family Tape No 8, October 14, 1989-January 13, 1990 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn71v]

AV1 - Family Tape No 9, February 3-July 1, 1990 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn720]

AV1 - Family Tape No 10, September 11, 1990-February 17, 1991 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn734]

AV1 - Family Tape No 11, March 31-July 28, 1991 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn748]

AV1 - Family Tape No 12, June 19-September, 1991 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn75d]

AV1 - Family Tape No 13, October 30, 1991-June 4, 1992 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn95m]

AV1 - Family Tape No 14, August 1992-May 29, 1994; December 9-20, 1996 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn77p]

AV1 - Family Tape No 14 #: January 1997 (camera trouble) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn78t]

AV1 - Family Tape No 15: November 12, 1995 (Blossim's Party) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn79z]

Other

AV2 - Honky-Tonk Bud: An Urban Folk Legend, by Scott Laster Association, 1985 (10 minutes) and Excavating Harlem by Kelly/Bull Productions, May 1988 (20 minutes) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhc2]

AV1 - Image Continuum, No. 1, February 10, 1989 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7gn]

AV1 - Mora, Elizabeth Catlett, "Childhood and Before," April 5, 1989, by William M. Kelley [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7k2]

AV1 - Spirit Women/Ghost Dancers, Aiki and D. Goring, by William M. Kelley, April 23, 1989 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7jx]

AV2 - New York City to Taos Pueblo New Mexico 87571 and Back Again, by William M. Kelley, April 21, 1989 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7hjl]

AV2 - MS DL in Taos New Mexico 87571, June 1989 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn7jx]
Ten Paintings by Bill Hutson, November 2, 1991, by William M. Kelley (13 minutes) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhd6]

Christmas 1991 at Edgecomb Avenue, by William M. Kelley, December 25, 1991 (11 minutes) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnfhf]

Etchitty & Manygoats, Navajo Craftswomen, April 1992, by Pete Manygoats
[original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pn97w]

William Melvin Kelley reading at Temple University, Introduction by David Bradley, September 26, 1991 (68 minutes) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhhm]

William Melvin Kelley, "Ebonics: Black English or Bad English, Clarification and Ramifications, January 13, 1997 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhn5]

Interviews

[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhrk]

Sauerwein, Henry A., Jr., Director H. Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, "Ancestry and Childhood," by William M. Kelley, June 18, 1989 (59 minutes) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhrk]

Grierson, Letitia, "Childhood in Scotland: Coming to America," by William M. Kelley, February 24, 1991 (38 minutes) [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhn1]

Travels with Brother Andre, August 28, 1990-November 17, 1991 [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhrk]

Prairie Flower in Harlem New York City, June 19-July 1991, by William M. Kelley [original: VHS]
[Digital/digitized copy available in the Reading Room: id pnhrk]