

# WIRTH, THOMAS H., 1938- Thomas H. Wirth collection, circa 1926-2014

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

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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Wirth, Thomas H., 1938-  
**Title:** Thomas H. Wirth collection, circa 1926-2014  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 1304  
**Extent:** 76.75 linear ft. (78 boxes), 10 oversized papers (OP), 2 bound volumes (BV), and AV Masters: 1 film  
**Abstract:** Rare book and manuscript collector Thomas H. Wirth's collection of manuscripts, printed ephemera, subject files, and phonograph albums relating to African American art and literature.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on Access

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### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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

### Separated Material

Emory University also holds the private library of Thomas H. Wirth. These materials may be located in the Emory University online catalog by searching for [Wirth, Thomas H., collector](#).

### Source

Purchase, 2014.

*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.*

**Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Thomas H. Wirth collection, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

**Processing**

Unprocessed collection.

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**Collection Description**

**Biographical Note**

Thomas H. Wirth (1938-) is a collector of rare books and manuscripts as well as the biographer of Richard Bruce Nugent.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists of material collected by Thomas H. Wirth relating to African American art and literature including numerous manuscripts by and printed items about Langston Hughes and a collection of photographs by Carl Van Vechten. Also included are general subject files, printed ephemera, and record albums including material relating to Chester Himes. Material relating to Langston Hughes includes biographical information as well as original writings by Hughes and a scrapbook kept by a classmate of the author's while attending Lincoln University.

**Arrangement Note**

Unprocessed collection.

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## Container List

### Langston Hughes collection

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Cassette tape, "Langston Hughes: Poetry and Reflections by the Author," no date
1	2	Negro Mother, typescript draft of "A Colored Soldier", signed and annotated by Hughes
1	2	Negro Mother, prints of illustrations signed by Prentiss Taylor
BV1	-	Scrapbook, Lincoln University, circa 1926-1929

### Carl Van Vechten photograph collection

1	3	Abrahams, Peter, no date
1	4	Addison, Adele, no date
1	5	Ailey, Alvin, no date
1	5	Ailey, Alvin, 1955
1	6	Allen, Betty, no date
1	7	Anderson, Marian, July 17, 1947
1	8	Atkinson, Edward, no date
1	9	Ayler, Ethel, as Zirata in Langston Hughes' Simply Heavenly, no date
1	10	Bel Geddes, Barbara, no date
1	10	Bel Geddes, Barbara, 1955
1	11	Belafonte, Harry, February 18, 1954
1	12	Blackwell, Charles, no date
1	13	Bontemps, Paul, April 26, 1947
1	14	Brice, Carol, April 10, 1947
1	15	Brown, Debria, no date
1	16	Burton, Miriam, no date
1	17	Carrington, Glenn and Carl Van Vechten, no date [photographer: Saul Mauriber]
1	18	Carroll, Diahann, 1955 [3 photographs]
1	19	Channing, Carol, 1956
1	20	Clay, Omar, no date
1	21	Cleveland, Ladybird, no date
1	22	Cocteau, Jean, Paris, circa 1940s
1	23	Corbin, Clayton, no date [2 photographs]
1	24	Curtis, Robert, no date [2 photographs]
1	25	Davey, Gloria, no date
1	26	De Lavallade, Carmen, no date
1	27	Demby, William, no date
1	28	Dobbs, Mattiwilda, no date
1	29	Dowell, Coleman, no date

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|---|----|--|
| 1 | 30 | Eaton, Ray, no date  |
| 1 | 31 | Fitzgerald, Ella, no date  |
| 1 | 32 | Gazzara, Ben, no date  |
| 1 | 33 | Gibson, Althea, no date  |
| 1 | 34 | Gillespie, Dizzy, 1955   |
| 1 | 35 | Grist, Reri, no date   |
| 1 | 36 | Harris, Julie in <i>I Am a Camera</i> , 1952   |
| 1 | 37 | Hill, Chippie, October 8, 1947   |
| 1 | 38 | Himes, Chester, no date  |
| 1 | 39 | Holder, Geoffrey, no date  |
| 1 | 40 | Holiday, Billie, March 23, 1949  |
| 1 | 41 | Hyman, Earle, in "St. John," 1953 [2 photographs, inscribed]                             |
| 1 | 42 | Johnson, Lewis, no date [autographed by Johnson]   |
| 1 | 43 | Jones, Laurence C., founder of the Piney Woods School, Mississippi, no date              |
| 1 | 44 | Kellner, Bruce, at the Cloisters, 1959   |
| 1 | 45 | Kitt, Eartha, no date  |
| 1 | 46 | Lamming, George, no date   |
| 2 | 1  | Marchant, Claude, February 21, 1947  |
| 2 | 2  | Marinoff, Fania, 1932  |
| 2 | 2  | Marinoff, Fania, with Olive May, no date   |
| 2 | 2  | Marinoff, Fania, with Rollo Peters, New York, 1931                                       |
| 2 | 2  | Marinoff, Fania as Mrs. Frail, <i>Love for Love</i> , 1936                               |
| 2 | 3  | McCullers, Carson, 1959  |
| 2 | 4  | McFerrin, Robert, no date  |
| 2 | 5  | McNeil, Claudia, in <i>Simply Heavenly</i> , no date                                     |
| 2 | 6  | McTeer, Kenneth, 1942 [2 photographs]  |
| 2 | 7  | Moncion, Francisco, no date  |
| 2 | 8  | Moore, Leon, no date   |
| 2 | 9  | Niki, Mariko, 1955   |
| 2 | 10 | Perkins, Sammy, grandson of Mildred Perkins, Van Vechten's cook for 35 years,<br>no date |
| 2 | 11 | Plummer, Christopher, no date  |
| 2 | 12 | Reading, Bertice, no date  |
| 2 | 13 | Rogers, Guy, 1958  |
| 2 | 14 | Romero, Cesar, 1934  |
| 2 | 15 | Sands, Diana, January 29, 1963   |
| 2 | 16 | Schuyler, George, no date  |
| 2 | 17 | Scott, Harold, no date   |
| 2 | 18 | Scott, Zachary, 1953   |
| 2 | 19 | Seldes, Marian, 1953   |

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|---|----|--|
| 2 | 20 | Stewart, Melvin, with Ethel Ayler in Langston Hughes' <i>Simply Heavenly</i> , no date |
| 2 | 21 | Stratton, Ronald, no date  |
| 2 | 22 | Strayhorn, Billy, no date  |
| 2 | 23 | Taylor, Paul, 1960   |
| 2 | 24 | Tynes, Margaret, no date   |
| 2 | 25 | Van Vechten, Carl, May 8, 1934   |
| 2 | 25 | Van Vechten, Carl, 1958 [photographer: Saul Mauriber]                                  |
| 2 | 26 | Vanderbilt, Gloria, 1959   |
| 2 | 27 | Warfield, William, no date   |
| 2 | 28 | Waters, Ethel, no date   |
| 2 | 29 | White, Carl Darrow, no date  |
| 2 | 30 | Wilkins, Roy, no date  |
| 2 | 31 | Williams, John A., July 3, 1962  |
| 2 | 32 | Yalman, ?, no date   |

### Postcard collection

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|---|----|---|
| 2 | 33 | Bronze Horse, c. 470 B.C., from Metropolitan Museum of Art, with inscription on reverse: "You are a woojums"        |
| 2 | 33 | Ethel Waters II, bronze by Antonio Salemme, no date [collection of Carl Van Vechten]                                |
| 2 | 33 | Fania Marinoff, unknown artist, no date   |
| 2 | 33 | Fania Marinoff, Adolfo Best Maugard, 1925   |
| 2 | 33 | Fetishes, no date,  |
| 2 | 33 | Negro Sailor, circa 1930, unknown Russian artist, collection of Carl Van Vechten                                    |
| 2 | 33 | Night, Jacob Epstein, London, no date, with inscription on reverse: "So sorry to hear the bad news"                 |
| 2 | 33 | Night, Jacob Epstein, London, no date, with inscription on reverse: "Everything's very quiet"                       |
| 2 | 33 | Madonna, unknown artist (Brett?), no date, with inscription: "This is Brett's Madonna, photographed by the maestro" |
| 2 | 33 | Victorian Cushion, no date  |

### Unprocessed material

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|---|---|--|
| 3 | - | Subject files: "Derricotte" through "Jerry Harrison"   |
| 4 | - | Subject files: "Riot Brooks" through "Tom Dent"  |
| 5 | - | Subject files: "Richard Wright" through "Zora Neale Hurston;" Langston Hughes ephemera and periodicals |
| 6 | - | Subject files: "Soulbook 2-4" through "Wood: Negro Songs"  |
| 7 | - | Subject files: "Elio Pomare" through "Soulbook 2"  |

- 8 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Chicago" through "Corpus"
- 9 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Black Dialogue Volume 1, Number 2" through "George Chauncey"
- 10 - Book dealer catalogs
- 11 - Langston Hughes and Chester Himes material
- 12 - Langston Hughes and Chester Himes material, periodicals and photographs
- 13 - Langston Hughes material: "A" through "Faith Berry"
- 14 - Langston Hughes material: "Black Muslims" through "Iowa"
- 15 - Langston Hughes material: "Michael Jackson" through "Sheet music"
- 16 - Langston Hughes material: "Sheet music" through "Zoom" magazine
- 17 - Langston Hughes material: "Hughes presentation" through "Langston Hughes Review, Volume 15, Number 2"
- 18 - Langston Hughes material: "Langston Hughes Review, Volume 16, Number 1" through "Yale Conference material"
- 19 - Langston Hughes material: "Hughes notes" through "Ephemera"
- 20 - Langston Hughes material: "Ephemera" through "Volunteer for Liberty November 15, 1937"
- 21 - Langston Hughes material: "Paul Carter Harrison" through "Ken Keleba"
- 22 - Subject files: "A. Philip Randolph Institute" through "Paul Bremen"
- 23 - Subject files: "Kgositsile" through "Allen Polite"
- 24 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Germaul Barnes" through "Black Creation"
- 25 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Creative Forces" through "Aaron Douglas"
- 26 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Aaron Douglas" through "Firestone Plantations"
- 27 - Periodicals and ephemera: "First World" through "Harper's Weekly"
- 28 - Periodicals and ephemera: "E. Lynn Harris" through "Michael Jackson"
- 29 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Michael Jackson" through "Lincoln Center"
- 30 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Lincoln University" through "New Jersey Governor's Commission"
- 31 - Periodicals and ephemera: "New Jersey Reporter" through "Opportunity, December 1929-June 1930"
- 32 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Opportunity January-April 1931" through "Photographica-California"
- 33 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Photographica" through "Rutgers: Literature and the Urban Experience"
- 34 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Soviet Art in Wartime" through "Van Vechten"
- 35 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Sage" and "Southern University"
- 36 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Vendryes" through "Zora Neale Hurston Society"
- 37 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Aaron Davis Hall" through "Benny Andrews"
- 38 - Periodicals and ephemera: "Bert Andrews" and "Jonathan Atkins"
- 39 - Book dealer catalogs; manuscript material

- 40 - Ephemera
- 41 - Ephemera
- 42 - Ephemera
- 43 - Ephemera
- 44 - Manuscript material
- 45 - Phonograph albums
- 46 - Phonograph albums
- 47 - Phonograph albums
- 48 - Phonograph albums
- 49 - Phonograph albums
- 50 - Phonograph albums
- 51 - Phonograph albums
- 52 - Phonograph albums
- 53 - Phonograph albums
- 54 - Subject files, general
- 55 - Subject files, A-P
- 56 - Subject files, P-Z; Correspondence, A-C
- 57 - Correspondence, C-S
- 58 - Correspondence; Book list [1 of 2]
- 59 - Book list [2 of 2]
- 60 - *Theatre Arts*; cassette tapes; photographs
- 61 - Play scripts, A-S
- 62 - Play scripts, M-W; Teaching files
- 63 - Correspondence, S-W; family correspondence
- 64 - Teaching files; audiovisual material
- 65 - Teaching files
- 66 - Personal papers
- 67 - Subject files; photographs
- 68 - Harvard project; correspondence
- 69 - Subject files; born digital material
- 70 - Personal papers; Countee Cullen project [1 of 2]
- 71 - Countee Cullen project [2 of 2]; Bruce Nugent [1 of 7]
- 72 - Bruce Nugent [2 of 7]; audiovisual material
- 73 - Bruce Nugent [3 of 7]
- 74 - Bruce Nugent [4 of 7]
- 75 - Bruce Nugent [5 of 7]; audiovisual material; subject files
- 76 - Bruce Nugent [6 of 7]; audiovisual material
- 77 - Bruce Nugent [7 of 7]; subject files; audiovisual material; born digital material
- 78 - Subject files, general; Petty material; born digital material

- OP9 - Printed material; art; photographs
  - OP10 - Printed material; art; photographs
  - OP1-8- Calendars, photographs, broadsides, sheet music, and other printed material
  - BV2 - Photograph album containing sexually explicit photographs, postcards and illustrations
  - AV1 - Film: *Harlem Renaissance: The Black Poets*
  - 79 - Subject files, general; Printed material; born digital material; audiovisual material
  - 80 - Slides  
Primarily related to Langston Hughes and Bruce Nugent
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