

WRIGHT, CHARLES, 1935- Charles Wright collection, 1975-2001

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Wright, Charles, 1935-
Title: Charles Wright collection, 1975-2001
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1211
Extent: .5 linear ft. (1 box) and 1 oversized paper (OP)
Abstract: Collection of writings by American poet and educator Charles Wright, including drafts of poems from his collections *China Trace*, *The Southern Cross*, *The Other Side of the River*, *Zone Journals*, and *Chickamauga*, as well as drafts of essays from *Halflife* and *Quarter Notes*.
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.

Related Materials in Other Repositories

[Charles Wright papers](#), Special Collections Department, University of Virginia Library.

Source

Purchase, 2012.

Citation

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

Processing

Processed by Sarah Quigley, 2012.

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Collection Description

Biographical Note

Charles Wright (1935-), American poet and educator, was born in Pickwick Dam, Tennessee to Charles Penzel Wright and Mary Winter Wright. He attended Davidson College in Charlotte, North Carolina from 1953-1957. After graduating with a degree in history, Wright was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant into the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps. He was discharged in 1961 with the rank of Captain, and entered the creative writing program at the University of Iowa the same year. In 1963, he received a Master of Fine Arts degree and also published his first collection of poems, *The Voyage*. In 1969, he married Holly McIntire.

Wright has published numerous volumes of poetry and two volumes of criticism. He is also an award winning translator of several Italian poets, including Eugenio Montale. His volumes of poetry include *Bloodlines* (1975), *China Trace* (1977), *The Southern Cross* (1981), *Country Music/Selected Early Poems* (1982), *The Other Side of the River* (1984), *Zone Journals* (1988), *Xionia* (1990), *The World of the Ten Thousand Things* (1990), *Chickamauga* (1995), *Black Zodiac* (1997), *Appalachia* (1998), *North American Bear* (1999), *Night Music* (2001), *A Short History of the Shadow* (2002), *The Wrong End of the Rainbow* (2005), *Scar Tissue* (2006) and *Outtakes* (2010). *Country Music* won the National Book Award for Poetry in 1983, and *Black Zodiac* won the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1998. His two volumes of criticism are *Halflife: Improvisations and Interviews, 1977-1987* (1989), and *Quarter Notes: Improvisations and Interviews* (1995).

Wright has taught at the Iowa Writers Workshop, The University of California, Irvine, and the University of Virginia. Is the winner of numerous literary prizes including the Pulitzer Prize, the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, and the National Book Award. In 2014, he was named United States Poet Laureate.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of writings by Charles Wright from 1975-2001. Included are typescript drafts of poems from his collections *China Trace*, *The Southern Cross*, *The Other Side of the River*, *Zone Journals*, and *Chickamauga*. Also present are drafts of essays from *Halflife* and *Quarter Notes*. Most drafts contain handwritten corrections and annotations by Wright. Four works, *Bloodlines*, *China Trace*, *The Southern Cross*, and *Night Music* include proofs with additional annotations. The collection also contains drafts of six poems translated by Wright. Finally, a small amount of other prose, such as panel remarks and introductions, are included. Other prose and translations are arranged at the end of the collection, following material from Wright's published collections.

Arrangement Note

Arranged in chronological order by volume.

Container List

Bloodlines (1975)

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Page proofs

China Trace (1977)

1	2	"12 Lines at Midnight," typescript draft
1	3	"Anniversary," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	4	"Dino Campana," typescript draft with handwritten notes
OP1		Galley proofs
1	5	Page proofs

The Southern Cross (1981)

1	6	"Bar Giamaica," notes
1	7	"Holy Thursday," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	8	"The Southern Cross," multiple typescript drafts with handwritten notes
1	9	Page proofs
1	10	Proofs, master set, first pass with annotations in an unknown hand, June 3, 1981
1	11	Proofs with annotations by Wright, June 3, 1981
1	12	Proofs with annotations in an unknown hand
1	13	Samples, May 19, 1981

The Other Side of the River (1984)

1	14	"Arkansas Traveler," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	15	"California Dreaming," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	16	"Cryopexy," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	17	"Italian Days," typescript draft with handwritten notes (variant title: "Local Color")
1	18	"Looking at Pictures," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	19	"T'Ang Notebook," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	20	"To Giacomo Leopardi in the Sky," typescript draft with handwritten notes (variant title: "Homage to Giacomo Leopardi")

Halflife: Improvisations and Interviews, 1977-1987 (1989)

1	21	"A.P. and E.D.," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	22	"Giorgio Morandi," typescript draft
1	23	"Halflife/A Commonplace Notebook," typescript draft
1	24	"Improvisations on Form and Measure," typescript draft with handwritten notes
1	25	"Improvisations on Montale," multiple typescript drafts with handwritten notes

1 26 "Improvisations on Pound," typescript draft with handwritten notes

Zone Journals (1988)

1 27 "A Journal of English Days," typescript draft with handwritten notes

1 28 "A Journal of the Year of the Ox," typescript draft with handwritten notes

Quarter Notes: Improvisations and Interviews (1995)

1 29 "Bytes and Pieces," typescript draft with handwritten notes

1 30 "The Hydrosyllabic Foot," typescript draft with handwritten notes

1 31 "Improvisations: With Father Hopkins on Lake Como," typescript draft with handwritten notes

1 32 "Miseducation of the Poet," typescript draft with handwritten notes

Chickamauga (1995)

1 33 "Chickamauga," typescript draft with handwritten notes

1 34 "Reading Rorty and Paul Celon One Morning in Early June," typescript draft with handwritten notes

1 35 "Sprung Narratives," typescript draft with handwritten notes

Night Music (2001)

1 36 Page proofs with annotations by Wright

Other prose

1 37 "Colorline," typescript draft with handwritten notes

1 38 Introduction for an unidentified colleague at the Iowa Writers Workshop

1 39 Untitled remarks for an unidentified panel, typescript and manuscript drafts

Translations

1 40 "From Beatrice," "Poem for One Voice," and "An Evening like so Many Others," by Giovanni Giudici, typescripts with handwritten notes

1 41 "La Grande Jeanne," "The Forties," and "Veritas Varietatum," by Luciano Erba, typescripts with handwritten notes
